

# RECREATION

— August 1940 —

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## Our Rhythm Band

By Mary Statler Koontz

## Wandering Bed and Board

By Edwin Muller

## Camping—August's Popular Sport

## Television a New Aid to Recreation

By Samuel L. Friedman

## A People's Arboretum in a People's Park

Volume XXXIV, No. 5

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# RECREATION

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## What Is It We Defend?

**T**HE WORLD we have known is all changed. We do not know what a day will bring forth. Gone are Czechoslovakia, Austria, almost Poland. Partitioned is Finland. Suspended are Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium as we have known them. Prostrate are China, France. The British Empire fights on. Defense in the United States comes first.

What is it we defend? What is the America we know? How runs The American Way of Life?

America is liberty, freedom, the pursuit of happiness.

America is also discipline, courage, the pioneer spirit, aspiration.

America is romance, adventure, sport, music, culture, life for all here and now.

We cannot defend America well without keeping strong that which we defend. America is life, real life for all from the cradle to the grave. Through recreation we build much that is above the mere cellar foundations of existence. In our cities and in our open country blossoms a civilization of abundant living which has been the dream of men always everywhere. Leisure is no longer an empty word.

All this we will defend. All this is worth defending. But surely this dream land that we have made real land—we will not give up just because we are going to defend it. We *will* keep our park lands and waters, our music, our beauty, our sports, the laughter of little children, a measure of rhythm and lightheartedness even as we step out ready to defend to the full all we have, all that we have with God's help builded.

Rhythm and smiles are a part of gallant defense and help keep away the tenseness that weakens defense. The hunger of all men and women for spiritual comradeship is greater at the present moment because of all that is happening in the world at large.

Keep the home fires, the heart fires burning. Keep the morale high. Here's no place to think of cheapness, of pinching pennies, of cutting taxes. Recreation, the song in the heart, must be strengthened, not weakened when we prepare to defend our shores.

The flag of our dreams as to what America is and can be and will be must not be lowered.

Always we must hold firmly that this part of the world with all its share of sorrow must still ever be kept a land of high courage.

*Howard Braucher*

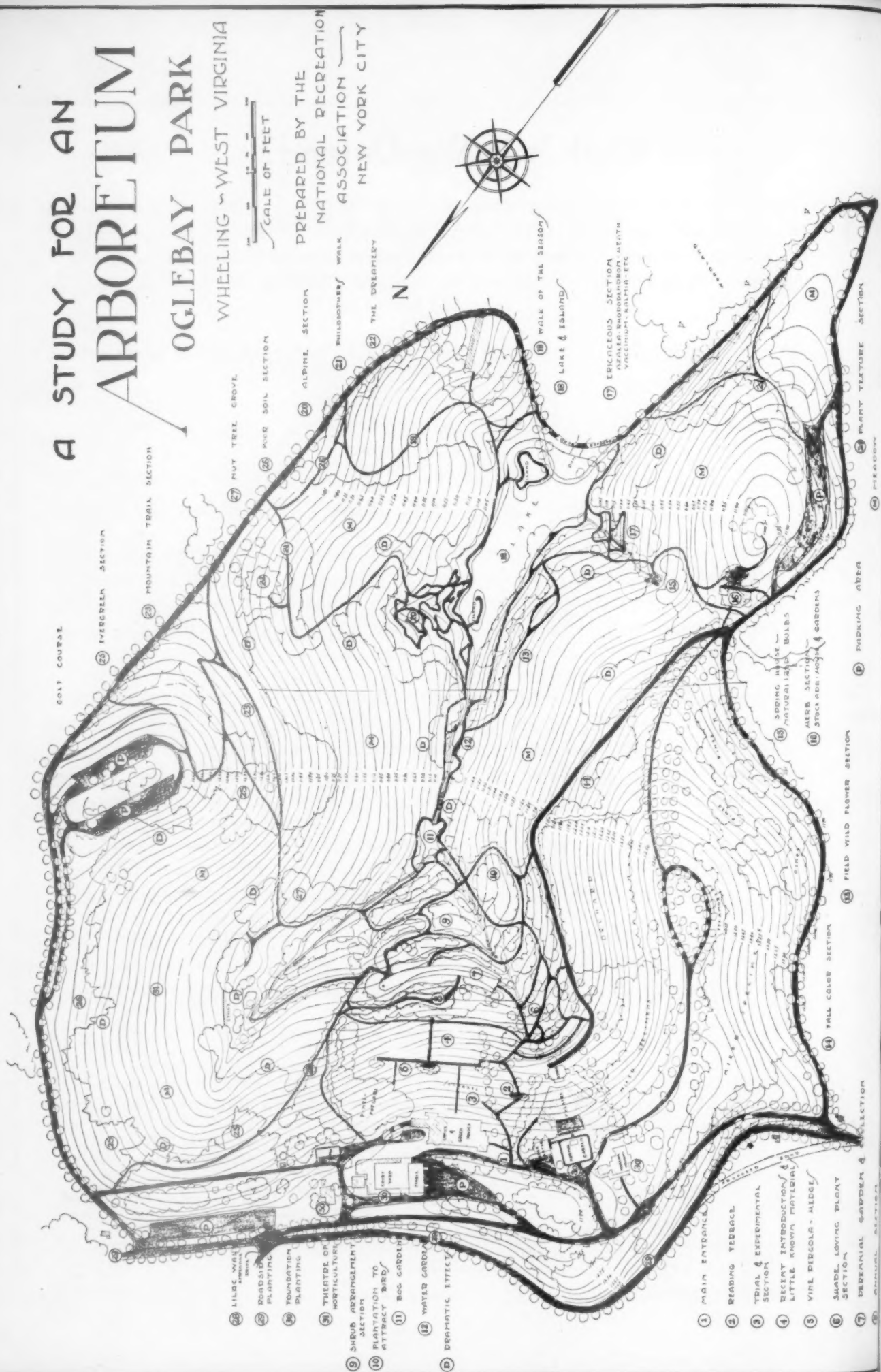
# A STUDY FOR AN ARBORETUM

## OGLEBAY PARK

WHEELING ~ WEST VIRGINIA

SCALE OF FEET

PREPARED BY THE  
NATIONAL RECREATION  
ASSOCIATION  
NEW YORK CITY



GOLF COURSE

23 MOUNTAIN TRAIL SECTION

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# A People's Arboretum in a People's Park

**O**GLEBAY PARK, West Virginia, which has already attained a national reputation as a people's park, was once the 750-acre estate of the late Earl William Oglebay. During his active life this vast rolling acreage known as Waddington Farm became an agricultural show place of the entire East. Upon his death, Oglebay Park was bequeathed to the people of Wheeling who accepted this princely gift through formal action of council in July, 1928.

The executors of the Oglebay estate, headed by Crispin Oglebay, nephew of Earl W. Oglebay, saw in this beautiful area an opportunity to develop physical and cultural facilities so necessary to the recreational life of the people.

Ever since its inception as a park the development of an Arboretum has always been considered a definite feature of future plans. In 1937 the National Park Service prepared a Master Plan for the Park setting aside an area of approximately seventy acres as a site for the proposed Arboretum.

On March 29, 1940 the Arboretum Committee at Oglebay Park authorized the National Recreation Association to prepare a study with specific recommendation for such a development. On June 19th the study was presented before the Wheeling Park Commission, the Arboretum Committee, and the Affiliated Garden Clubs and was adopted by these groups.

## Purpose and Scope

In the traditional sense of the word an Arboretum is a scientific collection of plants usually arranged by families, and as far as possible, in generic

This account of the proposed Arboretum at Oglebay Park and its many unusual and interesting features is based on the study made by F. Ellwood Allen, Specialist in Recreation Facilities, National Recreation Association.

groups so that students of horticulture may gain more information about plant habits, culture, and relationships. Due consideration is given to plant ecology. The Arboretum is then an outdoor laboratory where plants may be observed as they

grow in varying but entirely natural conditions.

Could an Arboretum built along traditional lines adequately meet human needs at Oglebay Park? Oglebay Park, since its beginning, has been a people's park, offering everyone an opportunity to enjoy cultural as well as physical activities amid surroundings of unusual beauty. It has done much to enrich life, to make it more satisfying through diversified activities. The Arboretum should be designed in keeping with such a philosophy.

In order to carry out this policy, our usual formulas will have to be discarded. An area approximately seventy acres in extent in the rear of the Mansion House is the site for the Arboretum Proper, but the study proceeds on the assumption that the entire acreage of the Park may be considered as an extensive Arboretum—so that existing Nature Trails, the unique Serpentine Drive, the numerous valleys and hillsides and the vehicular driveways may be a part of the scheme.

The main valley of the Arboretum Proper



This Arboretum is more than a scientific collection of plants; by designing it not for a few students but for all the people, and by attempting to make horticulture a definite part of their lives, it becomes an Arboretum of and for the people.

In order to dramatize horticulture, it will be necessary to create a series of breath-taking dramatic effects. The recent trends in gardening, the revived interest in



The Greenhouse and site of the main entrance to the Arboretum

horticulture among all groups of people, and the vitality of the Garden Club movement justify this radical departure. Obviously beauty will play an important part in accomplishing the objective. The driveways automatically become demonstration areas for roadside planting. There will be a series of horticultural "stages" in the Arboretum Proper, each presenting a striking dramatic effect. This series of dramatic effects will attract people at all times during the year, for these features will reach their maximum beauty and emotional appeal in different seasons. Impressive vistas, great open spaces, masses of informal planting carefully blended with the existing topography will create pictures of incomparable beauty.

Such an Arboretum will lose none of its scientific attributes. All materials will be carefully labeled with their scientific and common names. There will still be emphasis on plant ecology. The Arboretum will demonstrate clearly to visitors what can be done to create desirable effects with plants in their own homes and communities.

There is no question but that the development of an Arboretum of this type will have tremendous repercussions, because it makes possible the understanding and appreciation of horticulture by all classes of people. The inspirational value of this Arboretum will be reflected in homes and communities throughout the state of West Virginia and in surrounding regions. To the student it has a scientific appeal; to the lay gardener it shows the use of plant materials. It intrigues those who have never worked with plants into starting a garden of their own.

### General Character of the Design

Simplicity is the basic principle in the design of the Arboretum Proper. The unusual topography in the 70-acre tract, with its open hillsides and flowing valleys, with its masses of existing natural planting, will be utilized to the best possible advantage. Only in rare instances will the topography be changed.

The various sections and features of the Arboretum will be located not only in conformity with the existing topography and natural and cultural features but from the standpoint of accessibility as well. The entire area will be accessible from many points along the circumferential drive. No provision has been made in the Plan for vehicular traffic in the Arboretum Proper. Despite the numerous separated entrances into the area, it will be possible to visit all features by following a continuous series of walks and paths from any point. At three important spots around the area additional parking facilities will be provided, and the present parking area opposite the Greenhouses will be materially increased in size. Thus visitors will be able to park their cars within a reasonable distance from any particular point they wish to see.

Cognizance has been taken of the magnificent views from certain vantage points. The design increases the importance of this visual factor by planning new open spaces and additional vistas—thereby creating the illusion of distance and extent.

It is proposed that all walks be as natural as possible. Many of these should be of turf and defined only by a closer cutting of the grass, or, in areas where much planting occurs, of gravel or tanbark. To provide access for service trucks and equipment, major walks can be constructed of a macadam base covered with soil and sown to grass. There is no doubt but that it will be desirable that provision be made to allow those who are unable to walk to use the drives as a means of access to a specific section.

### Detailed Description of Major Sections

This, then, is a view of the Oglebay Park Ar-

boretum as though it had been already created according to the Plan:

**Main Entrance (1)\*.** Every important area should have one major entrance exceeding all others in salient design and treatment, so it is necessary that the Arboretum have a dignified and welcoming entrance in keeping with its uniqueness. The Garden Center and Greenhouses constitute the focal point of the Arboretum, and at a point between the Garden Center and the Greenhouses the Main Entrance has been conducted in an easy, gracious manner, conforming as far as possible with the existing topography. It may be necessary to construct a retaining wall in the cut away bank opposite the actual entrance for emphasis and prominence.

**Reading Terrace (2).** Approximately two hundred feet from the Main Entrance it was necessary to break the grade with a terrace. This Terrace is so designed and equipped to serve as terrace and outdoor reading room. Here a Garden Club may gather for reading and discussion in a lovely environment. Here is an excellent starting point for groups who wish to inspect the Arboretum. Adequately supplied with appropriate benches, the Terrace affords a quiet resting place for those who are weary on their return through the area. The Reading Terrace corresponds to the lobby of a hotel, furnished with appointments that are attractive as well as necessary.

**Trial and Experimental Section (3).** Directly in the rear of the Greenhouses is an area composed of regular terraces which has been set aside for trial and experimentation—for trying out new species and varieties of plant materials and rediscovering old ones. The area is of sufficient size to meet adequately the demands of a number of years.

**Recent Introductions and Little Known Materials (4).** The lower portion of the terraces to the rear of the Greenhouses becomes an exhibition ground for more recent introductions in the plant kingdom as well as for a display of unfamiliar but well-deserving species. Due to the char-

acter of the terraces, the plantings are formally arranged. Sections are set aside for shrubs, herbaceous perennials, annuals, bulbs, and small trees.

The development of a special rose section or garden is not contemplated, so an area in this section has been designated for some of the newer and better hybrid teas and perpetuals. A small collection of outstanding Iris, Peonies, and Lilies may be found in this area.

**Vine and Hedge Section (5).** In order to separate the two sections just described and to provide a support for a vine collection, a pergola has been introduced between the Trial and Recent Introductions Sections (3 and 4). This pergola, extending from one side of the terrace area to the other, is approximately three hundred feet long, and each eight-foot division affords a support for a separate vine in front and back. Dense types are used in the back and lighter in front, permitting visitors occasional views of the landscape beyond. One terrace immediately above the pergola contains a collection of hedge materials which screens the Trial Section (3). An axis in the form of a path through the Recent Introductions Section (4) has been developed and emphasized by a special semi-circular design in the center of the pergola. Benches placed in the pergola provide visitors with an opportunity to rest and enjoy the views from this point.

The collection of vines is impressive and fairly complete, containing all the common vines and some of the less familiar and newer types. This

\* This numeral and succeeding ones refer to corresponding figures on the Plan which appears on page 278.



Section showing approximately the site of the Theater of Horticulture



latter feature ties in perfectly with the section devoted to recent introductions and little known materials. One plant of each vine provides a successful and educational display. The plants are arranged as to color, texture, and time of flowering, for even before the Forsythia is in bloom, the Hardy Jasmine will be in all its glory. Here we find such vines as: Silver Lace-Vine, Kudzu Vine, Climbing Hydrangea, a collection of the newer Wisterias and Clematis, Akebia, Actinidia, and Low's Ivy.

In the hedge group, materials rarely used but excellent for hedges are introduced: Alder Buckthorn, Laurel Leafed Willow, Hawthornes in varieties, Amur Maple, and many others.

**Shade Loving Plant Section (6).** Just below the Reading Terrace (2), and to the west, a section rich in Maples and Poplars is provided with a series of paths and large beds for shade loving plants. The collection includes a variety of shrubs, small trees, ground covers, perennials, ferns, and brakes. Shrub possibilities include Spicebush, Sweetshrub, Viburnum in varieties, Sweet Pepper Bush, Shadbush, Flowering Raspberry.

The possibilities in perennials are almost unlimited: Columbine, Virginia Bluebell, Shooting Star, Day Lily, native Phlox, Primrose and Violet in varieties, Snakeroot, and others.

Here also we find a collection of lovely ferns and brakes with such striking examples as Regal, Cinnamon, and Interrupted Fern, Polypody, Woodsia, Spleenwort, Maidenhair Fern.

One section of the area shows plants adapted to dense shade, another to light shade, and still another to partial shade. So many people ask the question: "What will grow where it is too shady for grass?" The answer to this and to many other similar questions is found here.

**Perennial Gardens and Collection (7).** To those who approach from the Main Entrance (1), the Perennial Garden is the first spectacular display in the Arboretum. From just below the Reading Terrace (2) a walk leads to a six-foot wall and a wrought iron gate which opens into the Perennial Garden.

On entering the gate one sees a mass display of perennials and an impressive border on both sides

of a thirty-foot grass panel. The width of the beds varies from six to twenty feet, depending upon the type of materials and the massiveness of the planting. This perennial border is laid out in a curved pattern so that it is not possible to see the end of the garden from the entrance. The visitor is intrigued into continuing through the garden, following down the grass panel until a final mass of color, more spectacular than any previously seen, climaxes the horticultural display.

The secret of this perennial treatment is to use bold masses of material in heavy clusters, to design these masses so that an interesting bank and skyline are created, and to provide a border of continuous bloom throughout the year.

Here we find all of the well-known perennials adapted to the private garden placed in attractive arrangement according to time of bloom, color, height, and texture. The introduction of spring flowering bulbs in masses adds much to the color in early spring. Perennials that form natural partnerships and interesting effects are grouped together.

The axis of the garden is terminated by a small architectural feature such as a bird bath or piece of statuary. The Garden is completely enclosed by high planting of shrub material. This thick screen planting on the borders is one factor contributing to the surprise element so fundamental in the basic design of the Arboretum.

Visitors to this section see many perennials—some perhaps unknown to them—which are desirable in their own gardens. A careful scientific labeling acquaints them with the varieties and species in this valuable and inspirational display.

**Annual Section (8).** A walk on the north side of the perennial border leads to a section devoted to annuals. Here again we have a border on both sides of a curving path—this one, however, more informal in design. It consists of beds with a maximum depth of six feet in which annuals can be grouped in mass arrangement. The same policy of planting, but on a smaller scale, is followed in the Annual Garden as in the Perennial (7). Here we find a general collection of annuals grouped together according to color, height, time of bloom, etc.

**Shrub Arrangement Section (9).** A great deal of

In an official resolution the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Wheeling went on record as approving in principle the general scheme for the proposed Arboretum, and authorized the development of working plans in conformity with the ideas and suggestions submitted. "When carried out," stated the resolution, "the Plan will give Oglebay Park an Arboretum which will be modern in its conception and outstanding in its effectiveness."



time is spent in teaching flower arrangement in the home, and much emphasis is placed on the effective use of flowers in vases and receptacles. Many people, however, who are acquainted with various shrubs fail to realize how they too can be combined in their planting for dramatic effects.

The purpose of the Shrub Arrangement Section is to create interesting effects with shrubs in color, grouping, and type of growth. Arrangement is considered from the viewpoint of winter effects as well as seasonal flower and foliage. Here also visitors may learn the botanical and common names of horticultural materials. This section does not demonstrate the use of specimen plants but stresses, rather, mass planting for effect.

**Plantation to Attract Birds (10).** A growing interest in nature and wildlife has resulted in many inquiries on shrubs and materials that will attract birds to private gardens. While this section is not designed specifically as a bird sanctuary, in reality it functions as such. Here again striking effects are created in the planting of trees and shrubs, all carefully labeled and classified. In this case only those that are fruit bearing and that supply a definite source of food for birds are used: Honeysuckle, Spicebush, Flowering Raspberry, Indian Current, Snowberry, Sumac in varieties, Wild Grapes.

**Bog Garden (11).** Where the east and west branches of the brook meet directly below the Shrub Arrangement Section (9), a small dam has been constructed to form a bog area—the Bog Garden of the Arboretum. It is irregular in shape and surrounded by paths so that a careful study of materials can be made.

In this garden moisture-loving plants have been introduced, not only in the bog itself but around the edges and in the immediate vicinity. Masses of Forget-Me-Nots, of the blue and yellow native Flag, and of Marshmallow add color and interest. We find such plants as White Turtlehead, Butter-



On a bird walk in the Arboretum

fly Weed, Joe Pye Weed, Andrew's Gentian, Cowslip, Crowfoot, Golden Ragwort, Cardinal Flower, Arrowhead, Royal and Cinnamon Weed.

#### **Water Garden (12).**

A path proceeding south on either side of the brook leads to a small pond created for a Water Garden. The pool has provided

opportunity for the culture of aquatic plants, and, as in the Bog Garden (11), the land in the vicinity has been reserved for those trees and shrubs that do well in a moist environment.

Here are such trees as Red Maple, Black Birch, Black and Paper Birch, Sweetgum, American Larch. Shrubs include Buttonbush, Spicebush, Witch Hazel. Water Lily, Lotus, Cat-tails, Pickerel Weed are some of the aquatics which appear in this Garden.

**Field Wildflower Section (13).** Following along the west side of the brook in a southerly direction from the Water Garden (12), we come to an open field where wildflowers grow in open sunlight. Oftentimes we think of wildflowers only in connection with wooded areas, forgetting that the native habitat of many of the showiest wildflower species is the open field. The Wildflower Section has been planned to make visitors realize this fact. The following wildflowers play an important part in the collection: Hardhack and Meadowsweet, New England and other wild Asters, Goldenrod, Butter and Egg, Blazing Star, Butterfly Weed, Devil's Paintbrush, wild Lupine, Daisies in varieties.

**Fall Color Section (14).** This section is one of the most unusual examples of planting for dramatic effect. In order to show the importance of fall color in the use of materials, a special section has been set aside adjacent to the existing orchard on the west slope of the Arboretum Proper. Here trees and shrubs are grouped to create striking fall color contrasts. The following well-known materials have been used: Maples and Oaks, Sweetgum, Fragrant Sumac, Flowering Dogwood.

**Spring House—Naturalized Bulbs (15).** South of the Fall Color Section (14), an area is devoted to naturalizing bulbs. Great masses of bulbs have been introduced into this section. Crocuses, Narcissus and Scillas, Muscari and Snowdrops, and some of the important tulip types produce striking effects. The color can be extended over a considerable period of time and the sheer beauty of the flowers is a high dramatic point in early spring.

**Herb Section—Stockade-House and Gardens (16).** Those who have followed the interesting trends in gardening during the past few years have noted a revival of interest in herbs, both medicinal and culinary, that at one time were an important part of the old colonial garden.

Pot herbs are a prerequisite to good cooking, and Chives, Parsley, Tarragon, Chervil, and summer Savory should be in everyone's garden. Gardeners have discovered that herbs are not only valuable for their medicinal and culinary properties; many varieties add distinctive color and beauty to the perennial garden. Sweet herbs with their aromatic and pungent leaves and flowers—Lavender, Rosemary, Sweet Marjoram, Thyme, and Basil—are being used more and more by garden enthusiasts.

It is difficult to imagine a functional Arboretum for the people without a complete collection of herbs and a section devoted to their culture. The Herb Garden has a rather unique setting. It consists of a wire-woven sapling fence stockade six feet in height, enclosing an area approximately 50 x 80 feet. In the southeast corner of the stockade a building constructed of rough-hewn timber with a stone fireplace and a thatched roof is the focal point of interest. It has many functions: a salesroom for bottled dried herbs, a museum of old herbals and herb accessories, and a kitchenette for serving salads and sandwiches of which herbs are an important ingredient. Here one finds literature on herb culture and the use of herbs.

Around the building, resting on millstones, are old-fashioned beehives with their conical shapes and thatched roofs. The "Bee Garden" was a definite part of the herb gardens of the past. A well or dipping pool is another very important part of the

garden. Within in the stockade the major Herb Garden is placed. This is intricate in design—a "Knot Garden" in which the formal bed shape is outlined by low-growing herbs such as Santolina, Thyme, Parsley or Chervil. Within the knots are planted masses of various herbs.

A "Wagon Wheel" Herb Garden shows how herbs may be grown in a limited space. Such a garden is made by sinking an old wagon wheel in the ground and using the space between the spokes for various varieties of herbs.

About the stockade a collection of the older types of roses—including the Damask, Moss, and Cabbage Rose—some of which are almost extinct, are planted.

The Sweet Briar is used as a transition from the severe formal arrangement within the stockade itself to the informal area in the rear of the stockade. An opening on the opposite side of the Main Entrance (1) to the stockade leads to this informal section where herbs are shown in relation to a perennial border. In an open area provided with tables and chairs light refreshments are served.

The entire section is enclosed by heavy shrubbery in order that the Herb Garden may be seen only at the site itself.

**Ericaceous Section (17).** The Ericaceous plantings are on the west slope of the southern portion of the Arboretum—a location ideally suited to a display of this family, perhaps the showiest in the whole plant kingdom, including as it does the Rhododendron, the Azalea, the Mountain Laurel, the Scotch Heather. The many existing trees in the area offer partial shade for the shade loving members of the Ericaceous group.

Special soil treatment has been necessary for the culture of this family in order to display properly their full magnificence. Therefore, this section was developed in an area close to the main drive, simplifying the problem of soil removal and preparation. The Ericaceous Section is a further

example of planting for dramatic effect, for it has been so designed and planted that visitors catch glimpses of it from various high points in the Arboretum. As the area stretches to the lake (18) and is so located as to be seen advantageously from the main drive, the effect of viewing the flowering

The Garden Center Committee of Wheeling, believing that the Plan for the Arboretum will express in a very practical way the Committee's ideals for home and city beautification, voted to lend its full support to the development of the proposed project. Similarly the Arboretum Committee of Oglebay Park, which has for many years fostered the idea of an Arboretum in Oglebay Park, also voted approval of the Plan, feeling that it expresses the ideals of the Committee and the philosophy of Oglebay Park.

plants in relation to a body of water is truly breath taking. During Azalea and Rhododendron time there will be no comparable color display in the Arboretum.

**Lake and Islands (18).** A lake, approximately 650 feet long with a mean width of 175 feet has been created in the valley at the south end of the Arboretum Proper. Two islands have been constructed in the lake and planted with trees and shrubs. These islands are picturesque in themselves; they have created beautiful vistas and at the same time have given an opportunity for foot bridges, which are always an interesting feature of an area.

At certain strategic points visitors discover spectacular and dramatic effects. Around the borders of the lake and on the islands many interesting species of plants are grown. Water alone means much to a landscape and a body of water this size emphasizes the beauty of the entire area. It can be seen from numerous high points and when observed at close range becomes a reflecting basin for the planting along its border.

**Walk of the Seasons (19).** At the southern end of the Arboretum Proper a winding, graceful walk has been set aside as the Walk of the Seasons. It is divided into twelve separate sections, each representing one month of the year. In the January division are plants valuable from the standpoint of color, flower, and texture during the month of January. The same principle applies to each succeeding month until the final display is reached in December at the end of the walk. Various herbaceous materials as well as trees and shrubs are included in this section.

**Alpine Section (20).** On the side of the lake opposite the Ericaceous Section (17), a ravine demonstrates the planting of alpine—not only the well-known plants but

also those that have adapted themselves to alpine conditions. A small stream originating half way up the bank is utilized as a delicate cascade about which certain moisture-loving alpine plants are planted.

This section contains not only the bold masses of stratified rock necessary to the growing requirements for this group but also provides a Moraine and Wall Garden, showing respectively what plants will grow under the adverse conditions of a glacial moraine and a dry retaining wall.

The Alpine Section is heavily planted so that it may be seen in part from distant points but its full beauty can be realized only through intimate contact with it.

The Alpine Garden is probably the best example in the Arboretum of dramatizing horticulture. The installation of some lighting effects has been considered in order to make it possible for visitors to view the beauty of this area under night lights.

There is much misunderstanding as to the construction of an Alpine Garden. Here people learn how a garden can be constructed so that these tiny gems of Nature can be truly appreciated.

**Philosopher's Walk (21).** In the classic garden of the Greeks a section was usually set aside for the exclusive use of

those who wished to contemplate on Life and its meaning. In such a place walked Socrates as he talked with his disciples and sought to solve the riddle of the Universe.

Deep down in the heart of every individual at some time in his life is a yearning to let his thoughts wander freely in contemplation—for, in the last analysis, all men are philosophers. Then why not a place accessible to every man where beauty, goodness, and truth can find expression in silent meditation?

In the unusual environment of the Arboretum it seems most appropriate that a place of simple beauty be set aside as a

Nature study in the Arboretum





Philosopher's Walk. The planting produces lightness and delicacy in contrast to the bold planting masses of other sections of the Arboretum. Such materials as the White Fringe, the Weeping Japanese Cherry, the light airy gracefulness of the Tamarix, and similar shrubs should be dominant. Benches intermittently spaced along the Walk provide opportunity for rest and repose. This Walk, in reality, is a prelude to the Dreamery (22).

**The Dreamery (22).** Leading from the Philosopher's Walk (21) is a path entering into an open area carpeted with pine needles and completely surrounded by a heavy planting of native Pine. Here one may retire to dream or to gaze up at passing clouds or a star-studded sky. There are times when all men wish to be alone, and in the Dreamery this desire can be fulfilled.

Harry Overstreet has said, "Some day, perhaps, as we grow wiser about life and more generous in its arrangements, we shall build 'retreats.' The age of the monasteries is indeed over, but the wisdom that conceived them is an enduring one. For it recognized the serenity that can enter the life of the individual when, for a time, he is enabled to sequester himself and move quietly with his own brooding thoughts."

The Dreamery is a very necessary part of the Arboretum because it offers an opportunity for close communion between Man and Nature. Here is a Shangri-La, a Cathedral of Nature in inspiring majesty.

**Mountain Trail Section (23).** A path, going in a westerly direction from the Shrub Arrangement Section (9), leads to the Mountain Trail Section. Here we find exact reproductions on a small scale of the various planting belts at different elevations of an Appalachian mountainside.

This area provides an excellent opportunity for a study of plant ecology.

**Plant Texture Section (24).** At the extreme southwest portion of the Arboretum, a section shows the effects and relationships of plant texture. Too little attention has been given in the past to this important phase of plant design. Very fine textured plants have often been combined with extremely coarse ones without any thought of a transitional planting.

This section shows many examples of plant arrangements. Good and bad arrangements are provided and designated in order that the public may

realize the importance of texture in the planting of trees and shrubs.

**Evergreen Section (25).** The Arboretum does not provide a section specifically known as a Pinetum. It does, however, contain mass planting of evergreens throughout the area and especially along the northeast boundary. These evergreens have been planted in irregular borders and in groups where as many indigenous species as possible have been used.

In connection with the great Belt of Evergreens on the northeast boundary, transitional plantings have been introduced. Thrusting out into the open meadow in bold and striking lines, such material as the Sweet Fern, the Fragrant Sumac and brackens in masses tie in the evergreens with the surroundings. In this collection we find many varieties of Pines, Firs, Hemlocks, and Spruces, with occasional use of horticultural and exotic species in places where there is need for emphasis and contrast in form and texture.

The Evergreen Belt acts as a backdrop for dramatic effects in planting. For example, a mass planting of Flowering Dogwood against a background of White Pine creates a startling picture. Here again Flowering Crabs, Judas Trees, White Birches are used most effectively.

Not only does the Evergreen Section provide for a collection of coniferous material; it also serves as the frame about the Theater of Horticulture (31).

**Poor Soil Section (26).** In the southeastern portion of the Arboretum Proper a special area shows plant materials that do well in adverse soil conditions—in a specially created sandy, gravelly soil. Here we find Five-leafed Aralia, Peatree, Bladder Senna, Russian Olive, Privets in varieties, Alder Buckthorn, White Kerria, Fragrant Sumac, Indian Current.

**Nut Tree Grove (27).** In order that visitors may become acquainted with the various edible nuts grown in West Virginia, a section near the entrance to the Mountain Trail (23) has been reserved for growing young trees hardy in this region. The collection, properly labeled, includes Walnuts, Hickories, Butternuts, Hazelnuts, and others of the native species of the edible nut-bearing trees and shrubs, together with those exotic varieties that are hardy and can be acclimated.



**Lilac Walk (28).** Because of the popularity and interest in various varieties of Lilacs and their spectacular display, a special path has been designated as a Lilac Walk. Lilacs are planted in masses along a cultivated border on both sides of the Walk. By a careful selection of varieties, the length of the blooming season has been extended over a considerable period of time; and, as the Walk is one of the principal means of communication from the driveways on the north to the other sections of the Arboretum, it is used rather extensively.

All of the numerous varieties of Lilacs have not been included, but the collection shows those outstanding varieties easily obtainable from local nurseries which can be used in home planting.

**Roadside Planting (29).** Every road and drive in Oglebay Park has been considered a roadside planting demonstration area. This is particularly true of the Bethany Pike, which receives the greatest amount of traffic and is the only portion of the Park that many tourists see.

The plantings harmonize with the existing and future development plans for certain sections of the Park and produce a series of interesting and delightful effects. Because of the variation in topography and soil types and conditions along the road system of the Park many types of plants have been used. Native materials, as well as bold masses of flowering trees and shrubs, are used to good advantage to create the necessary dramatic effect. Here we find extensive planting of Flowering Dogwood, Judas Trees, Flowering Crabs, and the glorious Hawthorne. On steep banks the lovely Prairie, Scotch, and Wichuriana Rose delight the motorist. Many of the native wildflowers of West Virginia have been used in mass planting along the roadside and one can scarcely imagine a more striking effect than a mass of Snakeroot in full bloom. An attempt may be made to stabilize a section of Scotch Heather.

**Foundation Planting (30).** All of the buildings utilized in connection with the administrative function of the Park demonstrate foundation planting material. Many pleasing effects are created through the use of foundation plantings around these buildings. In addition to deciduous material, evergreens have been used, and low-growing ground covers and border plantings have been introduced.

**Theater of Horticulture (31).** The great open meadow and natural bowl created by the boundary

planting of evergreens on the northeast portion of the Arboretum Proper constitute a major attraction of the Arboretum. This is known as the Theater of Horticulture and is in reality a great natural amphitheater whose broad expanse of meadow is interrupted only at its boundaries by the bold thrust of the evergreen border into the area.

At the bottom of the slope a great planting of trees and shrubs creates a natural stage elevated slightly above the present grade. Upon this stage the planting has been judiciously selected and is of striking significance. Here are the most vivid and loveliest of the plant kingdom arranged in masses to create a continuous bloom. At no season of the year does the stage lack the presence of color. Here is a drama of the landscape in which Nature plays the principal role.

This Theater of Horticulture, designed primarily for its landscape effects, can, however, be used for large outdoor gatherings. It is possible to think of as many as ten thousand people gathered in this great natural bowl to listen to the masterpieces of the music world, an inspirational speaker, or a great outdoor sunrise service on Easter morning.

No permanent seating is contemplated in the area for it is practical as well as desirable to utilize the grassy slope as it is.

As a setting for a pretentious pageant the planting becomes a natural cyclorama. The horticultural materials on the stage have been arranged so as to provide actual wings and backstage space for use with any type of production. The stage area is completely enclosed, providing opportunity for backstage activity.

While it is not contemplated that the Theater be used continually for such purposes, the point is that it can be so employed if an occasion arises.

This is a picture of the Oglebay Park Arboretum as it may appear after all of the various sections have been developed to the best advantage.

The completion of the Arboretum as a whole will undoubtedly require considerable time, but certain sections can be constructed in the immediate future, so that gradually, over a period of time, all features of the Arboretum will be completed, dedicated and opened officially to the public. The near future should see the inauguration of developments which will comprise the first step in transforming an inspired dream into a magnificent reality.

# Camping—August's Popular Sport

*This month everyone fortunate enough to be able to do it has gone camping. Even though it may be at a stay-at-home camp, or in a city park near at hand, boys and girls are having new and delightful experiences and are getting acquainted with nature in ways which will make for permanent friendship with the out of doors.*

## A Municipal Recreation Camp

By C. E. BREWER  
Commissioner of Recreation  
Detroit, Michigan

THE DETROIT RECREATION CAMP, municipally owned and operated by the Department of Recreation, is situated on an ideal wooded camping spot of 314 acres near Brighton, about 45 miles from Detroit. A lake with excellent swimming facilities forms the natural division which separates the boys' camp and the girls' camp, each of which is operated as a separate unit.

The camp has a capacity of 400 children per week, 200 boys and 200 girls. No other camp within 250 miles of Detroit can accommodate so many. The charge is \$7.50 for the first week and \$6.00 for each consecutive week, which includes the cost of transportation to and from camp. The fees charged are set so that the camp would be as nearly self-supporting as possible. In computing the cost of operation there was some question as to whether the land and the depreciation cost should be included, but it was decided not to make this a part of the fee.

The camp was planned and is operated for the thousands of children who cannot afford the higher priced camps and do not want to go to the charity or organization camps. It was planned to give the sons and daughters of parents of average means an opportunity to experience the community life of camp, the exhilaration of the outdoors, and the mysteries of the world of nature. Here they can absorb the democratic principles

to which the system of camp is geared so they can make better adjustments to living their daily lives when they return.

Open to any child between the age of eight to fifteen years who can pass the physical examination, the working mother can send her child to camp during the vacation season with her mind completely at ease as to the child's care. The child from the broken home, who has only one parent, can find at the camp the stability that comes from normal routine and in the companionship of children of his own age. Parents who wish to take a summer trip may safely leave the children at camp and not add greatly to the expense of their vacation.

The cabins for sleeping are of permanent construction, well ventilated and equipped with electricity. Sanitation is modern and rated 100 per cent by the state of Michigan. Each child is provided with a steel cot, which has a felt mattress and feather pillow. A counselor sleeps with each group of nine or ten children.

A fleet of flat-bottomed boats is provided for the lake which divides the camp, making possible boat races and water pageants. The recreation halls, which are equipped with fireplace, pianos and stage, provide a play place for rainy days, augmented by a library whose books are furnished by the Detroit Public Library, and a pleasant, woodsy crafts cabin.

Each camp has a resident nurse, and the camp health is supervised by daily visits from a physician who can reach camp in ten minutes in case of an emergency. Each child is given a heart, throat, and skin examination on arrival.

Tempting, well-balanced meals are served, with

Of the more than fifty camps operating out of Detroit, some are organization camps restricted to members, others serve underprivileged boys and girls, and still others are private camps whose fees restrict their clientele to children of high income families. Private camps charging moderate fees are increasing in the Detroit area, but these camps accommodate not more than from fifteen to twenty campers. Among these various types of camps the Detroit Recreation Camp occupies a unique place, for while its rates are moderate it provides for as many as four hundred campers per week.

special attention given to children who are undernourished. Most children gain weight after a short stay in the camp and parents have reported that the children built up a greater resistance to colds than they had had previously.

Campers are transported to the camp by busses from one of the recreation centers. Returning campers are brought to the same place by the busses on their return trip. Campers bring their own blankets and bedding.

Experienced recreation workers direct the camp activities and supervise the counselors, who have had special training in children's work. The activities are selected to build in each child an awareness of nature and a sympathy and enthusiasm for the open.

In planning the program care has been taken to emphasize the activities not possible in the city. Hikes, nature trails, bird study, tree and plant identification, open up unexplored territory to the city child. Council fires, dramatics, corn roasts, and parties, while they add greatly to the fun, also bring out initiative, teach cooperation, and open the way for loyal companionship.

Skills are developed through the handicraft program carried on in the shade of large trees in the woods. Tennis, baseball, softball, and other team games engender a healthy competitive spirit controlled by an appreciation of good sportsmanship.

The bathing beach at the Detroit Recreation Camp is carefully supervised by a swimming instructor, assisted by counselors who are required to have American Red Cross Life Saving credentials. Every camper receives individual instruction and few leave camp unable to swim. As part of the safety program the cap system is used, that is, beginning swimmers are supplied with red caps. When they are able to pass their first swimming test and are fairly competent swimmers, they are given a blue cap. A white cap is awarded to very good swimmers who pass a strict second test and this cap indicates that they may swim in deep



Photo and copyright by Fay Welch

**Pack baskets may be made from splints from a swamp-grown ash, as this camper demonstrates**

water. The swimming area is roped off; shallow water for red caps and small children; a little deeper for blue caps and a raft and diving platform with a high board for advanced or white cap swimmers. Instruction in life saving and artificial resuscitation is given and many campers earn their Junior Life Saving emblems at camp.

The camp will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary this summer. From a small camp on rented property accommodating about twenty children who were housed in tents, it has developed into one of

the country's most modern and progressive camps. It fills a very definite need in the recreation program of a large industrial city and occupies a very special place in the lives and hearts of the many thousands of campers who have enjoyed its hospitality.

## A Camp That "Just Grewed"

By PAULINE L. ANDREWS  
Seattle, Washington

OUR DAY CAMP was like Topsy—it "just grewed." We didn't intend to start a day camp at all. In fact, it rolled up like a wave behind the Y.M.C.A. physical director who took five boys for a swim one day at Millersylvania State Park, twelve miles from Olympia. The next day his small roadster panted into the park with no fewer than fifteen youngsters aboard. The third day found the director the most popular man in town, and the local creamery loaned him an antiquated ice wagon for the thirty children who clamored to "go swimmin'."

Seven days later a schedule of four trips a week had been worked out, and we were in the business of running a day camp with an attendance of one hundred to two hundred children a day. In that one short week we had found a sponsor, arranged for the use of Millersylvania State Park, com-



mandeered a WPA staff, transportation, passenger insurance, and newspaper and playground publicity, and we were off on a six weeks' recreation program which hadn't even been thought of when the season started!

Sponsorship came from the Recreation Council, a branch of the Coordinating Council which was just being formed. The influential members, school and business people, composed a pressure group which never failed us. What we needed for the camp, whether it was ice cream or insurance, they somehow secured. They had no treasury, but the dimes brought by the children bought the essentials and paid the salary of the swimming teacher.

The camp site, although made to order, was not an item of expense. Washington state parks are free to anyone who wishes to use them, but we called on the park supervisor and secured his cooperation. That call paid dividends in many ways, primarily because it enlisted the help of the supervisor and smoothed the way immeasurably. We were no longer simply "the public."

Millersylvania State Park covers five hundred acres of virgin timberland on the shore of Deep Lake; straight Douglas firs grow to the very edge of the water. The park equipment exceeded our fondest hopes. I think most directors of public camps must dream of such a place. The waterfront layout included an enclosed shallow area for beginners. The rafts and walks were solidly constructed of huge cedar logs and planned for safety. Buildings, fencing, markers, were all of hand-hewn logs, the work of a nearby CCC camp. Bathhouses were large, well located, sanitary, and freshly scrubbed each morning before we arrived. Locker space was assigned to us, and a WPA worker took charge of checking. The sanitary facilities were new, modern, and adequate; rest rooms were disinfected and hosed daily; drinking fountains were numerous. To this splendid layout we added our meager equipment, consisting of the Y.M.C.A. softball outfit and a well-stocked first aid kit supplied by the American Red Cross.

Our lunch tables were fairly isolated and near one of the more remote community kitchens. We were removed from both the beach and the section of the park most used by the general public. The park was less frequented during the week than on Sunday, and some days found us with the whole five hundred acres to ourselves. Occasionally some organization would stage a picnic, but the problem of visitors was seldom serious. The

State had played Santa Claus, but the Federal government gave us our WPA staff. None of the workers were trained in recreation so they were assigned to take care of lockers, food, attendance records, and bus driving. Several took life saving courses and became life guards. This left the Y.M.C.A. director and the swimming teacher free to teach and direct. (In the last two years the WPA help has been largely replaced by volunteers and NYA workers. This seems to indicate that we are gaining more local interest and support.)

Of course, our toughest problem was transportation, for the camp was twelve miles from town. A local insurance firm came to the rescue with rock-bottom rates on passenger insurance. The school board offered the sixty-passenger school busses; four oil companies donated gasoline for the season; WPA furnished drivers. Our biggest difficulty was solved.

Publicity really wasn't a problem at all. The local daily paper printed our initial announcement conspicuously on the first page. It gave careful attention to our safety set-up and our sponsorship, which, we believe, started us out with the confidence of the parents. Although that story and one rewrite a few days later were our only advance publicity, the idea took hold so fast that announcements at the playfields gave us a turnout of over one hundred the first day.

Attendance grew like mushrooms. Our original idea had been to take the girls one day and the boys the next, thus running two days weekly. The plan was inadequate, so we scheduled four trips each week and took both boys and girls from one playfield each day. The two smallest fields went the same day. This plan was much better; less time was required to pick up the children and they constituted a homogeneous group already acquainted.

### A Program That Just Happened!

With transportation and sponsorship out of the way, our plans were only started. There still remained the question of a daily program of activities. The first day at camp set the pattern which we've never changed. It just happened, for nothing except the swim schedule had been planned. We were racking our brains for an after-lunch activity when the busses filled with children drove up.

Swim classes were under way by eleven o'clock. "All out!" came at twelve, and a mad rush for



lunch found the campers at the tables by 12:30. All through lunch we worried. What activity would keep such a large group quiet for half an hour right after lunch? Songs, of course, but no one on the staff was an experienced song leader. We tried singing for a while anyway, using songs the children already knew. At the end of fifteen minutes we were at a loss, although the children hadn't begun to suspect.

And then a girl with a huge orange sucker in her mouth came up and said in a syrup-impaired voice, "Can we have a Major Bowes hour?"

We were stunned. A program with no planning?

"Why, I guess we could," the director stammered.

"Can I be Major Bowes?" came in a flash of eagerness from behind the sucker.

We looked at each other and grinned like fools. Unorthodox, but why not try it? The girl with the sucker announced the idea, appointed a talent-drafting committee, and in fifteen minutes the back of the ice cream truck had become a stage, the top of the ice cream freezer mounted on a stick had become the "mike," and the "Major" was drawling, "All right, all right." A line of eager performers waited impatiently beside the stage to do their "act." A very good vaudeville show went on for forty-five minutes with tap dancing, songs, skits, acrobatics. The winner was decided by group applause and presented with an extra dish of ice cream.

Then we divided into groups for games, baseball, nature hikes, tumbling, and story or rest hour for those who wanted to do something "just quietly." At three o'clock came the recreational swim and the busses were ready to leave at 4:15.

That program became our design for camping. The campers demanded it. A waiting list of talent developed, and we were a proud camp staff, watching our campers take over their hour with little help from us. Perhaps the idea will wear out, but it hasn't yet, although some of the acts are showing signs of wear and we are beginning to hope that the local tap teachers will learn some new routines.

### Taking Stock of Accomplishments

And then the summer season was over. We wound up with a huge play day, and the two thousand persons present included parents and sponsors. We relaxed to clean-up details, complete records, and decide what, if anything, had been accomplished. Our camp had grown up be-

fore we had time to get our objectives clearly in mind. We surveyed what we had done.

In a town located in a county with over twenty lakes but with no swimming place within five miles, we had taught over two hundred children the rudiments of swimming and water safety. A survey the previous spring had disclosed the fact that over half the children between ten and thirteen were nonswimmers and that the beaches of the county were uniformly poorly supervised. We had begun a water safety program which has continued and grown.

But we had also given a fine outdoor trip to over seven hundred and fifty children, and over a third of them has six trips. We hope that we have given them a taste of a healthful, inexpensive type of recreation they will want to continue when their day camping days are over.

Best of all, though, we had reached children who needed that outing. Some underprivileged children had to be outfitted with bathing suits; only seventy per cent could pay their dime each week; a few didn't always arrive with lunch. But as we started home at the end of a hot summer day, we could look the length of a big bus over rows of sunburned faces and past bathing suits rolled into tight, wet knots, seeing some shabby, sleepy youngster supported by an older brother or sister, and we would know that he'd had a grand day and a good lunch. And then we would realize that even if we had "just growed," we had "growed" into something worthwhile.

## New Mexico Campers Discover the Indian

By BOB HATCH  
State Club Director  
New Mexico

HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS of New Mexico might be seen last summer a blazing camp fire around which were gathered an enthusiastic group of club members singing their favorite songs or listening to stories of the first settlers in this section, the Indians. In view of the fact that many of the boys and girls in New Mexico, once the home of many of the more interesting Indian tribes, do not realize the important part played by the Indian in the settlement of the

country, an Indian theme was used in all the camps.

After arriving in camp and registering in the Camp Log known as "4-H Camp Hieroglyphics," organization of the camp was begun on the Indian Pueblo basis, with the Pueblo Governor as head of the camp. The Governor was one of the 4-H Club delegates and he had as his assistant a camp sagamore. Other officers of the camp were the scribe, who was the editor of "Hieroglyphics"; the medicine man, who was in charge of rituals such as flag raising and lowering, camp fire lighting and candle lighting; and the camp song leader. After these officers had been selected, the camp was given an Indian name and emblem, and the delegates were divided into tribes. Each tribe then held its meeting, electing a tribe councilor, who was the tribe's representative on the camp council; a peacemaker, who was in charge of disciplining the tribe; a song leader; and a tribe scribe to serve as a reporter on "Hieroglyphics." After these elections each tribe made up its own Indian name and symbol, song and yell, and frequently the more original groups would create their own Indian dance and ceremonies. Through this tribal system the club groups from different communities in the county, and often from different counties, had the opportunity to mingle and become acquainted. We found, too, that organization on the tribal basis served as an excellent basis for friendly rivalry and competition between groups.

When organization had been completed, the camp council, made up of camp officers and the tribe councilors with the camp advisers, met to formulate camp rules and regulations. While this was under way other club delegates did some of the necessary camp chores such as gathering logs for the camp fire, building a council ring, erecting the flag pole, and laying out various game areas. Thus by the end of the organization period the camp was not only well organized but well equipped for recreation and entertainment.

#### At the End of the First Day

Supper on the first day was always a very interesting meal because of the good time everyone had playing games and getting acquainted. The meal always began with the singing of a grace,

**During the summer of 1939, 2,500 4-H Club members and their leaders attended county and district camps arranged for 25 of the 31 counties of New Mexico. In many cases the money to finance these camps was raised by club members through plays, box suppers, carnivals and similar affairs. All arrangements for the camp site, transportation and the buying of food were left to county extension workers and 4-H Club Councils. Most camps were of three or four days' duration — days packed full of activity.**

with everyone standing. Seating arrangements were such that no close friends and, if possible, no two delegates from the same club would be at the same table. This encouraged mixing and getting acquainted. At the first meal those at each table were organized as a family. They selected their family name, usually something

original, and then one person was designated as "Pa," and others as "Ma," "Junior," "Grandma," "the hired hand," "twins," and so on until each had been assigned a family relationship. Pa was then asked to stand, give the family name, and introduce other members of his family. After all the introductions had been made, each table wrote the words of a song describing the family. Familiar tunes were used. Before any table was permitted to have its dessert each was made to stand and sing the family song. Usually to end the meal with a good time for everyone, the hired man was asked to tell his favorite joke. (Just as a tip to those who wish to use this idea—always censor the hired hand's jokes before they are told!) At the end of each meal those assigned for K. P. duty for the next meal were announced.

Immediately after supper the medicine man gathered the group around the flag pole while the flag was lowered to the tune of the "Star-Spangled Banner." If time permitted, get-acquainted games were played after the evening meal. Just at dusk the group gathered in the council ring for a 4-H camp fire lighting ceremony and the explanation of any camp objectives. At this first meeting the camp governor read the rules and regulations formulated by the camp council in the afternoon meeting. The first evening's entertainment always consisted of movies and marionettes presented by the Extension Service. Several movies of 4-H Club work in New Mexico were shown. The marionette show, presented twenty-five times during the summer months, was "Ferdinand the Bull." It proved most entertaining to the boys and girls.

After the group had retired, an amplifier was set up in the center of camp and a thirty minute program of music was played to help quiet the group and also to teach appreciation of good music. At the sound of taps each evening the camp became quiet.

### The Second Day

The second day's program started with a flag raising ceremony followed by a short hike and group singing. After breakfast the camp was again divided into tribes for group conferences. Those presented on the first day were bead craft, woodwork, recreation in the home, wildlife conservation or nature study. Around the dinner table, after all had spent a full morning attending conferences, family games were played, and the feature of this meal was the tracing down of the family tree by "Ma." The thirty minutes after dinner were designated as a rest period, with the next hour and a half as a free period for playing games such as horseshoes, box hockey, shuffleboard, checkers, or for practicing some craft which the campers had learned in the morning. The latter part of the afternoon was devoted to softball and volleyball tournaments between tribes.

At the evening meal on the second day each family selected some well-known character and dressed up one of the children in the family to represent this person. Two who will be long remembered were a girl dressed as Cleopatra and a boy as Napoleon. And Napoleon met his Waterloo when he met the charming Cleopatra! During the course of the meal each table was requested to dramatize the story connected with the character chosen.

The second evening was devoted to a camp fire program which was typically Indian in that all were asked to sit around the council ring with legs crossed in Indian fashion, each wearing an Indian blanket. The camp governor and medicine man were in charge of the Indian camp fire lighting ceremony. After the ceremony one club member told the story of the origin of fire. This was followed by the singing of Indian songs by the group. Then came Indian dances and legends by club members and club leaders. Each tribe sang its own tribe song, and Indian games were played. A short statement was given about the Indian language, followed by an Indian prayer by the medicine man. This ended the evening's program.

### A Nature Hike on the

#### Third Day

After the flag raising ceremony on the third day came active games and group singing, followed by a nature hike, always greatly enjoyed.

Group conferences again occupied the morning hours, and a conference on hobbies and one on music appreciation were added to the first day's program. In the afternoon the finals in the softball and volleyball tournaments between tribes were played. This did not, however, end the rivalry between tribes.

In preparation for supper each person was asked to make a novel hat of newspapers, leaves, flowers, or any other available material. Some of the hats made by the boys and girls would easily have passed as the latest fashion when they appeared decorated with pine cones, birds' nests, and flowers!

As the evening meal on the third day was the last main meal of camp, it took the form of a banquet. Each camper attended wearing his novel hat; newspapers were torn into small bits to serve as confetti. The camp governor acted as toastmaster, using a dummy microphone, and different groups and individuals were called on to sing songs, tell jokes, put on stunts, or provide some other form of entertainment. After supper, as a fitting opening for the delegates' evening program, a camp parade was organized. The campers all made costumes from newspapers or blankets and marched in the parade, which was led by the camp band with dummy instruments. The drum major, with a high paper sack shako and a bright colored raincoat uniform, was a most impressive sight! The parade ended in the recreation hall on a stage which had been prepared for the entertainment. Each tribe was responsible for thirty minutes of entertainment, and original stunts, songs, and short plays were cleverly presented.

On the morning of the fourth day, just before the breaking up of camp, the camp grounds were cleaned, bed rolls made, and everyone shared in the general camp clean-up. The camp program ended with a model club meeting in which the group wrote letters of thanks, distributed the "Camp Hieroglyphics," and made such awards as a loving cup of two funnels for the tribe scoring highest in the sports tournament. After the business meeting and a picnic lunch, the group broke camp and started the trip homeward.

**"There are without doubt many types of organization possible for club camps, but the type which places responsibility for organization and program in the hands of club members themselves, as in the case of this camp, has great advantages to offer the campers."**

**"In camp, of all places, democracy must have complete opportunity. Camps flourish best where there is freedom of spirit."—William G. Vinal.**



# Thursday Night at Hiram House Playground

By JAMES LIOTTA

LIKE A MEDIEVAL fortress the walls of Hiram House, in Cleveland, isolate the playground from the roar and bustle of Woodland Avenue. The iron gates of the settlement which face East 29th Street are always open, offering a universal welcome to children and grown-ups who live in this drab neighborhood. Woodland Avenue stretches, a road of speeding automobiles and heavy traffic on market days, a motley of second-hand furniture shops, pool rooms, and cheap restaurants. Although it is ironically called Woodland there is hardly a tree along most of its bare length. It is flanked on two sides in this district by Orange Avenue and Scovill which are as symbolic of an area that has seen its best days as the great avenue itself. Along these streets with the gloomy, unpainted houses, rendered monotonously alike by the prevalent smoke, there are strange little shops where lucky oils are sold to a gullible public. The policy game flourishes in many of these places and crime, delinquency and superstition are in their familiar setting.

It is from these streets, fraught with peril and temptation for the growing boy, that the Hiram House playground offers a refuge and a sanctuary. Here under the guidance of trained leaders there is an opportunity for games of every kind. In the guise of a miniature community whose welfare depends on the cooperation of its citizens, the playground has been run with great success. Good work is rewarded by recognition and the slackers are usually won over in the course of the season. Temporary exclusion from cherished activities is the only disciplinary measure applied, and it seems to be enough in a community where self-respect and the respect of your neighbors is of primary importance.

## When Thursday Night Comes

The gates of Hiram House are usually open to the idle boy or girl who is looking for a place to spend his time. However, there is one exception. On Thursday evenings during the summer the gates are locked for it is the gala night of the free

**Hiram House playground, established in 1900, is now leased to the City of Cleveland and is being operated cooperatively by the city and Hiram House Settlement, of which George A. Bellamy has been the director for more than forty years.**

moving picture show during the hot months.

At about six o'clock the crowd begins to gather. Children of every age and nationality begin to swarm about the huge gates. They peep through the iron bars at the leaders and other playground citizens who are setting up the huge screen on which the movies are projected. The huge loud speaker is attached; it is a somewhat rudimentary sound system, but it is effective. All the technical work is done by Hiram House boys. The screen is stretched taut and it is soaked with water so that the image is clear.

Scattered in different parts of the playground are small stands where milk is sold for three pennies. While the preparations are being made, the crowd outside the gates is growing larger. Many adults have joined the waiting group. When the screen has been set up, at eight o'clock sharp the gates are flung open with an air of ceremony. What a motley crowd surges through those open gates! Thousands of children crowd beside grown men and women who have come to spend an enjoyable evening. Grizzled Italian laborers stand beside dark-skinned Mexican women pressing wide-eyed little Mexican babies to their breasts. Little tow-headed Poles and Russians mingle with black-haired Italians. Bashful little Negro children hold hands with their older brothers, sisters, expectant and solemn-faced and laughing.

Soon the whole playground is covered with an eager throng. On nights when the weather is most favorable four thousand and more have been known to come into the playground. Order is maintained in this large crowd by a group of competent leaders scattered about in strategic places. Sticks are taken away from those carrying them, bicycles are relegated to the sides, and safety and order are established. Sometimes there is a WPA orchestra that offers its services. The orchestra is stationed on a little platform under the screen. Here the musicians sit and now and then singers or tap dancers "strut their stuff." The crowd is always appreciative, always eager. They will listen to anything

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# d Magic in the Recreation Program

**M**AGIC HAS LONG been recognized as one of the world's oldest arts; it has always been a source of amusement, entertainment, and interest to both young and old throughout the ages. And today magic has a definite place in the New York City's recreation program because the Park Department, recognizing its value as a recreational medium, has given it an important place in the recreation program.

Clubs in various phases of the art of magic have grown up in the playgrounds of the five boroughs of Greater New York. Latent talents are being constantly discovered and encouraged in children. In order that these young people may display their skill before their friends, exhibitions are held with competitors from other recreation centers in the city. Lesson plans and study aids have been compiled for use in the program, and materials and bibliographies collected and classified for use in the clubs. This material has been gathered as a result of intensive experiments and wide experience with thousands of children.

The first Magic Club was formed at McLaughlin Park in 1931 in response to constant requests on the part of children for more information and guidance. Other groups were created in neighboring parks and playgrounds as interest in this new phase of recreation spread. In 1935 the work had progressed to such an extent that a Magic Review of the unique talents of the children was presented to mark the first anniversary of the opening of the model Roosevelt Playground.

Seeing the possibilities of magic as an important factor in recreation as well as in the educational work of the Division of Recreation, James V. Mulholland, Director of Recreation for the Park Department, further encouraged the development of the program by assigning a traveling troupe of entertainers under the supervision of "Peter Pan" to give shows and demonstrations of the various phases of magic in all the playgrounds and recreation centers in the five boroughs. This led eventually to the establishment of many more magic clubs.



**By ABRAHAM B. HURWITZ**  
Playground Director

The clubs are interested in magic and kindred arts including many novel forms of creative recreation which have not as yet been popularized in the average recreation program. Club members, ranging from six to eighteen years of age, study through the "play way" unusual forms of paper tearing and folding, parlor tricks, puzzles, various phases of shadowgraphy, chalk talks, sleight of hand, rag, sand, and smoke pictures, optical and psychological illusions, juggling, Punch and Judy, marionettes, ventriloquism, and other forms of dramatic expression and imitations such as pantomimes, magical games, plays, skits, and stunts. In fact, there is some form of magic expression or activity for every chronological and psychological age level and for every type of child. These

**The Department of Parks of New York City, recognizing the value of magic as a recreational medium, has so successfully incorporated it in its program that it is finding it difficult to meet the demands. The author of this article, known as the "Peter Pan" of the Park Department, gives demonstrations of magic at the various park playgrounds throughout the five boroughs to the great delight not only of children but of adolescent boys and girls and adults.**

can be adapted to all the mental attitudes in which a child's mind expresses itself and may be shaped as an interest-arousing device to meet his school and personal problems.

Magic groups have been found a valuable aid in keeping children happily occupied on rainy days and providing a constant source of entertainment. Upon special occasions and at playground parties members of the clubs are ready to contribute to the entertainment planned by presenting special entertainments of their own creation such as magic operettas, puppetry plays, using shadow puppets as well as the conventional marionettes, magic reviews, and black art demonstrations.

Magic clubs give children an opportunity for creative self-expression, and "learning through play" is their keynote. Trying to do things, learning a skill, a scientific principle, a secret of magic, means starting a child's mind on a wonderful expedition, a charmed adventure from which it will come home laden with treasures—among them the satisfaction of knowing something others do not know, and the joy of making others laugh, or keeping an audience bewildered and mystified. The sensation a child experiences in coordinating muscles with music, the skill of finger dexterity in manipulating a coin or a ball, and the ability to give joy to others are a few of the experiences shared by the club members.

#### **Magic Compels Attention**

Attention is a command in the army. To attract attention is the first law of salesmanship. Teachers in schools must have the attention of the children. Unlike the army, business and schools, playgrounds do not solicit or require attention. The activities by their very nature must attract it. Recreation leaders are agreed that a normal child's spontaneous interest best expresses his needs at the moment. The satisfaction of this interest fastens itself on his mind through the enjoyment it affords and may lead in the future to a worthwhile avocation or vocation.

Magic compels attention and arouses interest. It is a common denominator interest among children. Many children find in it a source of education and amusement for themselves as well as of entertainment for their friends.

Not only is magic being used as a factor in recreation, keeping children occupied with an activity that is fascinating, absorbing, and endless in its variety, but it is also being used as a means of visual education to correlate with school work in

mathematics, shop work, sciences, and other vocational and avocational interest.

Dr. Thrasher, head of the Department of Sociology at New York University, has said: "The failure of clubs to hold their membership during junior and intermediate years is disastrous because these boys pass through the most critical years for delinquency at that time, and if influence is not firmly established in these years any further efforts will be futile."

Magic clubs composed of boys at the ages to which Dr. Thrasher refers have been exceptionally successful in holding their members.

#### **Possibilities Unlimited**

For countless centuries knowledge of magic and skill in it were confined to a limited few. The small amount of material and literature on the subject was zealously guarded, and this secret knowledge was passed down from father to son. Magic was used to foster superstition and fears, and to take advantage of the uneducated masses. In modern times it has become more of an art and less of a mystery. Today there is a wealth of material and information available to everyone. The art of magic is no longer a link to the Dark Ages. It acquaints the present-day youth with the superstitions and fears of yesterday and sharpens his mind for the problems of tomorrow. It is a hobby for the ever-increasing leisure of modern times; it is a form of play, a mode of thinking and acting in the ever-increasing complexity of business, science, and general living.

Magnetism and the gyroscope were used exclusively by magicians only a few decades ago. Today they play important parts in modern science and inventions. Astrology and alchemy, former branches of magic, were the forerunners of modern astronomy and chemistry. Many scientific principles of light and sound were used as demonstrations during the nineteenth century. Thus, as the science of today is made up in part from the magic of yesterday, it is possible that the magic of today will become the science of tomorrow.

There is need for men and women equipped with a knowledge of psychology and magic to instruct playground directors in the theory, practice, and sources of information for this new form of creative recreation, which in the hands of skilled and educated leaders may be used as an outlet for self-expression, as well as a form of creative and dramatic expression. Such leaders

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# Wandering Bed and Board

**W**E HAD a week's holiday coming to us, Stuart and I.

It had never seemed so important to make the most of it. Like everybody else's jobs ours have put on extra pressure in this year of Our Lord, 1940. And the pressure keeps on after office hours. We live in a welter of newspaper headlines, radio commentators, newsreels—all shrieking war and catastrophe.

It isn't easy to escape. Of course you can start out in the car, a week's luggage packed in the rumble, and set forth on the open road. The trouble is that sooner or later you have to stop. Then, whether it's a de luxe hotel or a "tourists accommodated," you're back in the welter. Same newspapers, same commentators, same newsreels. All the people with whom you come in contact talking the same things.

But there is a way out of it—to cut yourself off entirely from the world of people. To go into the wilderness with your bed and board on your back. To take the best of all holidays, camping afoot.

On a morning that was coming clear after a night of rain we parked our car at the site of the old Dolly Copp Farm on the eastern slopes of the White Mountains. From the clearing the densely wooded valley of the Great Gulf curved back into the heart of the Presidential Range. We studied the massive, bare peaks that enclosed the distant head of the valley. Dark, ragged clouds still clung to the summits—they were remote, unattainable, vaguely threatening. They stirred an impatient longing to climb up among them.

We swung the rucksacks to our shoulders and plunged into the solid green wall of the forest. Five minutes away from the clearing we had the thing that we had come for. We were out of sight and hearing of the highway. We were a million miles from the world of people, the world in which all your possessions, interests and activities are entangled with those of everybody else. In our packs—they weighed under twenty-five pounds apiece—were a tent, blankets, cooking kit, food for five days—all that we needed to be

**"No one who hasn't been afoot with all his possessions on his back can know the meaning of the word freedom."**

*By* EDWIN MULLER

sheltered, warm and well fed. We were complete as we stood. We couldn't get lost because home was right with us. We were the freest men on earth.

The trail wound along the West Branch of the Peabody. Sometimes the forest was a closed roof overhead, shutting out the sky. The pine trunks rose to great heights before they branched; we walked on a soft carpet of the needles. Then we came out on higher ground, clear of trees. There we saw long vistas of the valley, looked up at the dark blue peaks ahead, still half veiled by the shifting clouds.

Now the trail mounted more steeply toward the upper levels of the valley. Climbing steadily, hour after hour in the thin mountain air, the brain drifts into a pleasant trance. Thinking about anything becomes impossible, worries are non-existent and the sharp outlines of consciousness melt in a rosy haze. Yet more than ever before one is vividly conscious of being alive.

Up side valleys were glimpses of the lofty upper flanks. Here and there they were scarred by great gashes where the spring avalanches had torn away broad strips of the forest.

We stopped to rest whenever we felt inclined, wherever a soft bed of moss looked as if it had been put there for the purpose. By noon we began to search for the night's camping place. After a day or two we'd carry the weight all day without noticing it, but now we were soft from city living and the pack straps were beginning to bear down. No need to drive ourselves, we weren't on a schedule.

We left the trail and explored off to the right. Probably we had the valley all to ourselves but we wanted for our lodging the luxurious extreme of privacy, away from even the traces of human footsteps. We worked down a steep bank to the edge of the stream. Crossing it was a doubtful business as it was in flood from recent rains. The water came tumbling and screaming down over the big boulders in a tumult of hurry. A fallen log spanned it and we inched across astride it, assuring ourselves that the log was sound.



There was a perfect camp site a hundred yards up stream. An open space among the pines that gave a clear view of the valley's steep headwall towering two thousand feet above. A level stretch for the tent. In front of it the stream broadened into a crystal-clear pool that had scooped a smooth hollow out of the solid rock.

You must have system in making camp. First unpack the rucksack, find a place for every object and keep it there when not in use. It's fatal to strew things about. Hang the food bags on limbs away from porcupines and other pirates. Clear a space of stone and brush and put up the tent. When it's taut and firm you'll stop and gloat over it as you would over a new house that you've just built. There's nothing more satisfying than a tent. Men lived in them long before they had houses, and the instinct of the nomad is still deeply embedded in all of us. To be a free wanderer and yet to have a home—that's what the tent means.

Next the beds. With the little pocket ax cut a great mass of pine twigs, cram them into the feather-weight browse bags, lay them on the ground cloth of the tent, arrange the blankets on them. Then get in the fire wood, half again as much as you think you'll need, sound dry sticks that haven't lain on the ground to rot. Put a little wood in the tent in case it rains. Unpack the cook kit—the frying pan with the folding handle, the plates, spoons, forks and cups that nest snugly inside the two aluminum pots. Now the chores are done.

In the afternoon I went off alone, exploring the side of the valley. I clambered up the bed of a steep, tributary brook, pulling myself up by roots and branches, crossed a watershed, came down by another brook. When I got back to the floor of the valley the sun was below the rim of the headwall, the line of shadow was swiftly climbing the forest-mantled opposite flank. Reaching the main stream I thought that it looked somehow different. Maybe I was on the wrong one. I had a faint touch of the cold chill of panic that is the most terrifying sensation of the wilderness, the feeling of being lost in the woods with night coming on. If you've ever felt it it's easy to understand how men have lost their wits, started to run blindly, battered their heads against trees, collapsed exhausted.

I shouted—no answer.

It was nonsense of course. I couldn't be lost here. I sat down, got out the contour map and compass, studied the situation. There was only the one main stream, clearly I had only to follow it and I'd come to camp. But reason is a poor defense against blind, instinctive fears. When I started I found myself stumbling in my haste. The trees seemed thicker overhead, darkness was coming down like a relentless curtain.

Within half a mile I turned the corner of a bluff—the sky lightened—there was camp. The little tent stood up stoutly, the pans and dishes were in an orderly row, Stuart was leaning over preparing to light the fire. Home. Smouldering panic vanished in a puff.

Dinnertime. Our fire was built in a hearth constructed of flat stones, the upper two set close enough together to hold the pots. For this first night we had brought a steak; later we'd have to do with cured meats. Steak broils very well in the frying pan if only you heat the pan hot enough before the meat goes in.

After you sear it in the hot flame set it on the glowing embers that you have raked aside. In one pot rice, in the other a mish-mosh of dried fruit—prunes, apricots, peaches and figs. A heavy sprinkling of brown sugar over the compote when it's done. The coffee is boiled after the rest of the meal is eaten.

All of it tastes far better than if a guide had cooked it for you.

Indeed, everything about the wilderness has a better flavor if you do it yourself. When you go with guides you are merely a tourist, taken out to look at scenery, catch fish or whatever. When you're on your own the whole wide forest belongs to you.

We leaned back and lit our pipes. Now it was almost dark under the trees, the light was fading even on the upper rim of the valley. Wisps of cloud curled down over the lip of the headwall. The forest pressed in upon the contracting open space around the tent.

This is the moment when, if you were camping alone, the feeling of isolation would seize you. In the daylight you were free to move, to turn back any moment to the world of people. Now you are irretrievably cut off—alone. But your misgiving lasts only for a moment. Then peace envelopes your soul. The wilderness is no hostile

**"You can go into the woods with some particular purpose: to fish, to hunt, to photograph wildlife. Or you can go with the most adventurous aim of all—merely to see what's on the other side of the range."**

world—here you are at home. We talk a little, desultorily — of plans for tomorrow, of the weather, of climbs that we had done together. No mention of war or the state of the nation. Not that we consciously avoided them; it was rather that here these things were far away, without reality. Soon we crawled into the tent, hollowed out our beds in the fragrant pine boughs and drew the blankets around us. The clatter of the stream grew fainter in our ears.

I woke in the dark to a great rushing sound. The wind was swooping over the headwall, roaring down the length of the valley. The leaves were churning, the boughs groaned. A spatter of rain struck the tent, then another and soon it was drumming steadily on the canvas a foot above my head. Stuart sat up wide awake. We were afraid that the tent might blow down or water flood under it. But it was well set on high ground and the guy ropes held firm. Our gear and ourselves were safe and dry. We went luxuriously back to sleep, filled with vast content.

The dawn is at first a cold, unfriendly time. The woods are dank and dripping, the light is a dirty gray, last night's frying pan looks greasy and unappetizing. There ought to be somebody to give you breakfast in bed.

Our faint resolution was spurred by events. There was a great rattling and banging outside. We slid out quickly. A dark, furry shape was nosing at the pots and pans. In the dim half-light it looked as big as a young bear.

A porcupine is a stolid brute, contemptuous of man. He disregards beatings with a stick that would make a mule run. Before this one was put to flight we were warm and wide awake. A wash in the icy water of the pool made us ready to eat all the bacon we had brought for the whole trip.

That day we were ambitious. We planned to climb up out of the valley, mount above tree line to the bare peaks and set up our traveling home right among the clouds.

The tent was down and all the baggage stowed in the sacks by the time the sun was over the rim of the headwall. Last night's storm had cleared the weather. We started under a blue sky. We climbed slowly, first through tall pines, then through lower trees. We passed clumps of boulders as big as cottages, crossed steep ledges. When we could look out we saw the valley floor sinking far below. It was a solid green carpet, with no break to show last night's resting place. The light green of new foliage picked out a pattern against the darker tone of the pines.

Higher still the pines were stunted below a man's height. Their limbs were gnarled and twisted like the writhing fingers of witches. They all pointed in one direction, straining away desperately from the north, from the screaming north wind that rakes them through the long winter. Even now in summer it was a bleak and savage region.

A camp site was found at the extreme upper limit of the scrub, where above was only the naked rock and the tumbled chaos of boulders. There was a strip of moss level enough for the tent. A tiny spring of black water trickled out between two rocks.

This was harder living than last night. Our mattresses weren't as luxuriously thick,

it was too much labor for us to hack enough branches from the iron-hard scrub. The firewood had to be rationed.

But it was worth the hardship to sit sheltered by the tent after dinner and look out over the world. We were on that upper rim of the headwall that yesterday had

**A meal out in the open always tastes better if you have cooked it yourself**



Photo by Reynold Carlson

seemed such an immeasurable height above. It was the roof top of New England, the crest of the Presidential Range. At our back the rocky cone of Jefferson rose another five hundred feet. Curving to the left were Adams and Madison with their long connecting ridges. Curving to the right was the ridge that bore the Summit of Washington, still tipped with cloud. Down in the vast horseshoe thus enclosed was unbroken forest. Looking across it the eye lifted to range after range of blue hills, melting at last in the far horizon.

In the valley that cut across the lower end of the horseshoe was a little cluster of dolls' houses, a curl of smoke rising from them. Other than that there was no sign of man in all the world.

Lonely? No—it was rather a feeling of escape, of complete release from the clashing jangles and discords of the world of people. And the release was the more complete because we were *living* here in the high places, not merely walking through them from one human habitation to another.

The tingling excitement of it was increased by a trace of danger. This would be no place to linger in stormy weather. The wind blows so hard that a man cannot stand against it. Hail and snow pellets strike like bullets. The driving mist shuts off all vision. Within sight of where we sat half a dozen men had died of exposure.

But now the sky was blue and the world was peaceful.

We shivered that night although we put on every garment that we had and drew the blankets close. It was well after dawn before we made ourselves unknot from our stiff-limbed huddles and go out into the day.

Then we looked out, startled. Overhead the sky was still clear. There was no mist at our level. But below in the valley a great mass of clouds had gathered. It was a billowy ocean that extended as far as we could see. The mountain summits, those near at hand and those far away, stood up from it like islands.

As we watched, a glow on the horizon brightened into fire. The rim of the sun rose out of the sea of cloud. The great peak above us turned crimson. . . .

**"You will never get away from it. The sighing of the wind through the pine trees and the laughter of the stream in its rapids will sound through your dreams. On beds of silken softness you will long for the sleeping song of the whispering leaves above your head, and the smell of a couch of balsam boughs . . . in great cathedrals you will remember the friendly forest."**—From *The Summer Camp*, published by Camp Fire Girls, Inc.

Almost anybody can go camping afoot. Twenty-five to thirty pounds is an easy load for the average healthy man, if he doesn't go too far the first day. If a man and woman go together they can weight the loads in her favor so that they are both ready to stop at the same

time to rest or to make camp for the night.

You don't have to be experienced in woodcraft. It's like golf—the tyro can enjoy it from the start and the more he learns the more fun he has. Of course the beginner won't plunge at first into the more remote wilderness, not until he has learned to use compass and contour map. Camping afoot can be as safe as going to church.

There are a number of good manuals of woodcraft—and don't let anybody tell you that you can't learn anything about the woods from a book. Naturally book learning must be tested by experience. You won't sleep as comfortably or dine as well on your first trip as you will later on, but that's not a big price to pay.

It's the cheapest of all vacations, cheaper than staying at home. The equipment costs less than a good set of golf clubs and lasts for years. Once you're in the woods with your food on your back you can't spend a nickel. The wilderness sends in no hotel bills. And, while vacation hotels are much the same the country over, the wilderness gives you different lodging and entertainment every time.

The state and national parks and forests are an enormous area to choose from. Maine woods, White Mountains, Green Mountains, Blue Ridge, Great Smokies, Ozarks, Black Hills—and of course the whole outdoor empire of the Rockies. You can set up your traveling home in sight of snow peaks, by the side of broad lakes far away from motor roads, on the cliffs of a rocky coast, on salt water beaches that are still untouched by man. There's hardly an inhabitant of the United States who isn't within a day's travel of wilderness where he can bury himself from civilization. Wilderness that is kept untouched and unspoiled for its owner—you.

You can't get what the forests and the high hills have to offer by living in hotels or camping just off the highway and making little daytime excursions. You have to penetrate to the inner

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# Guiding the Camp Counselor

By GENA GRUBB  
Glenwood, Iowa

**W**HIO ARE the counselors that help form the framework of our hundreds of summer camps? What is their great contribution to camp? Does the director, through her guidance program, help them to release their own talents and abilities so they give to camp and get from camp the utmost, or are they interviewed, accepted and merely taken for granted? Can they give most to camp by drifting from one camp to another each summer or should they be retained for several seasons?

What the answer is to each of these questions depends on what one thinks of camping in relation to education. The summer camp is now filling a needed place in the education of the child and adult. New objectives and principles are rapidly formed; improved plans are made yearly; duties of counselors are changing along with new emphases in the camp program. Several years ago the counselor's duty was to help the child enjoy a vacation; following this came the stress in the creation of new skills and the development of new interests. At the present time skills are not the chief goals, but guidance in skills in order to be of greater benefit to camp, home, and the community. Camping does not close at the end of the season, but is a part of the yearly activity at home and school. All of this means the continuous education of the counselor as well as a reorganization and a greater emphasis on the camp director's guiding philosophy for counselors.

In most camps the director, with the help of members of a governing board, sets the standards and policies, and plans the general

**"What about the camp counselor?" asks one of them, and she makes a plea for more guidance of the counselor by the camp director, for greater interplay of ideas, and more opportunity to make a real contribution to camp life.**

administration of a particular camp. But the director, through her guidance program for counselors as well as campers, builds ideals, creates attitudes, and broadens interests. Not enough attention has been given to the guidance of counselor groups to enable them in turn to be

most capable of guiding others.

The camp director has the responsibility of fifty to two hundred people in a girl's camp. If the camp has both junior and senior divisions, her responsibilities are of a wider scope. She must be a versatile person, social in nature, of wide and unusual experience, a student of human nature with a good sense of humor, a buoyant spirit, with a zest for living. Her plans, ideals and aspirations for camp must be timely and afford variety; she must be alert to economic and social problems, scientific interests and popular fads and fancies. Her task is a gigantic one if only dealing with groups of one age level, but she cannot forget the counselor in her plans for summer camp.

## Consider the Counselor!

Camp is considered the place for campers to have fun or achieve the various things the parents expect. How can these ideals and many others be fulfilled unless the counselors who are so closely associated with campers are receiving compensation through a guiding philosophy of the director? It is no easy task under most camp programs for the director with heavy responsibilities to think of the needs of the counselors. Some camps offer some form of guidance through a counselor - training course from eight to



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ten days at the opening of the camp season, or other camps may have a two or three day pre-camp training period.

What is the theme of the counselor's meetings which are of so much interest to curious campers? Camp problems are discussed in relation to the camper; perhaps there is a short talk on creative camping by the director, or plans for visitor's day are formulated. It is necessary to dispose of this business as quickly as possible for there are other duties needing attention. There seems so little time for counselor guidance in the whole scheme of outdoor living! How can the counselor be inspired to do creative work when her interests, desires and wishes are not given scope for development through a guiding philosophy of the director!

In most of our camps emphasis is placed on progressive methods employed; on activities originating within the groups of campers and counselors. Plans are made according to the wishes of the group, yet our methods used are far from progressive and sometimes stilted, superficial and undemocratic. A long view of camping is needed instead of season-to-season fragmentary education with a new director and a new set of counselors each year.

In a well-known camp which prided itself on being progressive, informal discussion on a variety of questions was encouraged before bedtime. The idea was to encourage spontaneous, original and creative discussion. The counselors found no special interest in discussion at this particular time, and any attempt to guide the talk resulted in mere chatter and drifting conversation. The counselors reported discussions of greater value growing out of some incident out on the trail, when a group were doing a bit of handcraft, while making their beds in the morning or sweeping their cabins. The counselors must be free and ready to guide campers, taking the leads offered by campers at various times.

Counselors need individual attention from the director, and as there are different age levels in counselors there are meager interests to be enriched and others to be developed. This should be a part of the director's guidance program. Delegation of responsibilities according to abilities and needs, and freedom in which to grow should be one of the director's guiding principles for counselors.

This will take more of the director's time than she is now giving to camp, but her position should

be a full-time one, and not for late spring and summer only. In the spring she is so hurried with the duties of registration for campers, with interviewing counselors and a host of other tasks, that she overlooks any guiding principles for counselors in her effort to get a permanent staff completed at least two weeks before camp opens. Much of her time should be spent at camp instead of away from it, as is the present custom. As conditions now exist her interest in camp can be only seasonal, and when occupied with other duties she gives little thought to camp until the period for engaging counselors arrives, when interviewing begins, and the bartering ends at the close of the summer.

Another general guiding principle for a director or leader should be to broaden the program and enrich the experience for all. Emory Bogardus in "Fundamentals of Social Psychology" classifies leaders according to four types: The group compeller, the group exponent, the group representative and the group builder. The camp director should be the latter type, but she cannot build a camp without considering the counselor's contribution and development. The wise director uses the stimulation, suggestion and inspiration of counselors in such a way as to share responsibilities with counselors and campers. She plans within her counselor group ideas for self-guidance and leadership according to individual capacity. If the director thinks too far ahead of her counselor group, the results are liable to be disastrous because her methods will appear visionary and revolutionary. She will need to guide step by step; gradual evolution with counselor-camper participation makes for a happy successful camp.

### Who Are the Counselors?

The counselors should be individuals who receive delightful experiences from recreation, otherwise their spirit will not be contagious. This group in camp varies considerably in age; they, as well as campers, come from various home environments. They express a diversity of interests in life and some hold positions of responsibility in teaching and other related fields. A few are just out of the adolescent stage who are seeking experiences with children and adults to enable them to hold responsible positions. Some have problems of insecurity and other difficulties. The problem of the director is to so guide this counselor group toward self-direction, adjustment and establishment of right ideals and attitudes so nec-

essary for camp and for other fields of work they may enter. The task is not simple when counselors shift from camp to camp each summer. Some plan whereby counselors would remain for more than one season is desirable and would help the individual to attain wider experience in camping and to see its relationship in the development of the whole child in home, school and community.

The counselors come to camp for numerous reasons. With some it is a primitive form of barter, an exchange of services for experiences with children and young people. With others it is service in exchange for some compensation and health, love for nature, maintenance and other things. There are those who need time to gain a new perspective on life to enable them to make adjustments and to meet the demands of our rapidly changing social order. Many of these adults have been trained in schools and colleges which stressed specialization in certain occupations and professions that fitted one for a limited type of work, but as machinery has replaced labor numerous economic problems have become acute so that at the present time predictions seem to indicate the need for one to be socially adjusted and to have a diversity of interests and occupations to which one may turn for a living.

Camp could give the counselor practical experience in leadership in many fields, opportunities to do experimental work and an acquaintance with areas of occupations through a good camp library. If all opportunities at camp were made available for the counselor groups, camps would be open the entire year and accessible for counselors and campers at any time. Counselors would then be able to make a definite contribution to camp and the community.

Life at camp, many feel, has become stilted, narrow and inexpressive. It might well be reorganized and built upon a new set of principles.

### Fields for Study

Some of the fields for occupational and professional study at camp are listed as follows:

There is first of all food service work involving quantity buying with preparation and serving of food for children and adults. This includes tasty lunches and easily prepared wholesome food for the camp fire.

In the broad field of hand-craft leather, tin, beads, crepe

paper and numerous things are at hand waiting to be used.

The community theater, with its scenery-construction, lighting, make-up, acting and costume designing, offers a challenge.

Writing of original plays for camp, and research in the field of religious drama with adaptations for camp are greatly needed.

Swimming and life saving offer another field for service. Interest needs to be stimulated in learning to swim for fun and health. There are still many lives lost each year during the summer holidays because of a lack of knowledge of this art.

The world of nature should be made accessible for others. An acquaintance, knowledge, and understanding of plant and animal life add richness to living.

Skill in dancing and land sports of all kinds are worthy of a counselor's best interest and knowledge.

What a field for study exists in camp music! Some improvement has been made in the past few years, but much is yet to be done.

The camp library has been badly neglected. There is much free material available or a great amount that can be purchased at a small cost that should be in every camp library. Valuable scrap books of all types could be made; a wide variety of books could be acquired if an effort were put forth.

There would be an excellent opportunity for journalism if the program of activities were wide.

The building of simple rustic camp furniture as well as furniture made from crates, boxes and barrels found at camp affords an interesting activity.

A camp could maintain a flower and vegetable garden, and plans for its growth would more than repay any counselor who would undertake it.

It would be profitable for camp to keep a few domestic animals, such as cows, pigs, sheep and horses, the number depending on the acreage available. Riding horses are about the only animals seen at camp at the present time, and they are usually eight to ten miles from camp and provided only for those who take special riding lessons.

An interesting variety of poultry could easily be raised on a small area at camp. There is a broad field for study here. Camp offers an excellent opportunity for a

**"The camps which produce the best results are camps with a high degree of democratic participation on the part of the campers, a thorough-going system for reaching each boy, and unusually expert and well-trained leadership."**

**—Goodwin Watson**



study of domestic animals and poultry, but nothing has been done in these fields.

Camp for the city child and adult has been in too great a degree merely a reproduction of metropolitan life instead of any awakening to new aspects of life outside city interests.

To make an extensive study of these topics would require new principles, plans and organization for camp.

"If good educational methods are desirable in stimulating intrinsic interests of campers in activity, they are also desirable for counselors. The morale and spirit of the counselors are very quickly reflected in the morale and spirit of the camp. No camp morale can rise above the level of its counselors."—*Hedley S. Dimock.*

The counselors in our camps wish to be recognized as individuals and they want the director to know what they are doing. Do they like appreciation of work well done and an opportunity to acquire new skills? Witness the delight of an adult counselor who has learned to swim at camp or the happy expression resulting from a bit of handcraft work completed! There is joy in sharing the new experience with counselors, campers and the directors; the recognition of new avenues of occupations and professions open to her brings delight. The time taken to acquire the new skill should not be thought of as a skill gained at the expense of the camper; often the latter enjoys seeing the counselors make the same struggle to acquire new skills as she finds necessary. The director should see in this another of her guiding principles; namely, that counselors and campers grow in knowledge and skill according to the ability of the individual.

#### Recreation for Counselors

Under our present system of camping, activities are provided for campers, but there is little for



*Photo and copyright by Fay Welch*

**In transplanting trees grown in the camp nursery at Tanager Lodge, these campers are both increasing their knowledge of nature lore and sharing responsibility for camp beautification and improvement.**

counselors in the way of recreation on an adult level. What constitutes enjoyable activity for the counselor varies with age, experience, cultural status, intelligence and other factors. For some it will be a hike along a favorite or unknown trail with time to study plant life; for others it will be a canoe trip with

a cook-out, a chance to write letters in some shady nook away from the rest of the camp without being thought disloyal. Some enjoy the opportunity of visiting other camps for an exchange

of ideas with other counselors and directors which makes for wider growth and development. These activities on an adult level need to be considered and given a definite place in the whole plan of summer camping.

What has the small group of two or three formed within the larger counselor group to contribute to camp? Sometimes fear arises on the part of leaders, thinking disloyalty will result if these small units are formed. These are natural mutual relationships, and the director should help the small group to make a contribution to camp. At times counselors can participate better in the larger group by sharing and combining interests; creative work will result from the united effort and the interactions of people which will be better for all concerned. For example, small groups of counselors and campers may undertake a certain project which originates from a small group discussion. As others become interested, groups join, and there is the combined effort of a number of small groups all sharing responsibilities and working toward one goal. People live and carry out

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# Television as a New Aid to Recreation

By SAMUEL L. FRIEDMAN

Director of Promotion  
Playground and Recreation Department  
Los Angeles, California

**T**HE STUDIO blazes with lights from powerful flood lamps. Technicians, wearing head phones behind which trail long wires, are busy moving props around and rolling up a huge futuristic-looking camera mounted on heavy rubber tired wheels. The cast of players and participants stand around, their faces glaring grotesquely in their heavy movie make-up.

Then a hush falls over the entire group as the master of ceremonies steps forward into the bright circle of light directly in front of the camera. Another telecast is about to begin.

Television, the infant giant of the communication and entertainment world, is just now growing out of its swaddling clothes and getting ready to make its bow as a new and powerful influence in our daily lives. What does this new development hold forth for the field of recreation?

Many recreation departments across the country have already learned to make excellent use of the radio as a tool in their public relations program. Television, through the infinite possibilities of its combined visual and auditory expression, holds forth a magnificent promise toward recreation and education, which may in time far exceed that which radio has so splendidly fulfilled.

As perhaps the first public recreation department in the country to make use of television in its program of public contact, the Los Angeles Department of Playground and Recreation has already gained some valuable experience in this field and has been able to gauge a little the new opportunity of expression which soon will become more generally available.

Telecasts at present may be divided roughly into two classes, the first consisting of the presentation of motion pictures, and the second of so-called "live programs." Both of these have been attempted in Los Angeles by the Recreation Department.

In Los Angeles is situated one of the first television stations in the west, W6XAO, owned and operated by Thomas S. Lee, who is also the owner

**Television, infant prodigy of the communication and entertainment world, is just now growing out of its swaddling clothes and is getting ready to enter our daily lives as a new and powerful influence. What has this new development to offer the field of recreation?**

of the Don Lee Pacific Coast Network of the Mutual Broadcasting System. This station has been sending out telecasts regularly for a period of nearly nine years and during that time, through constant research and experimentation, has steadily improved the quality of the programs. Today this broadcasting organization and several others of like importance

across the country are at the dawn of a new stage of widespread public appreciation and use.

The Los Angeles Recreation Department has presented a number of its sound motion pictures over Station W6XAO. Of much greater interest, however, in their potentialities for public recreation, are the experiments conducted with "live" telecasts.

## "Live" Telecasts

One of the most successful of these was the presentation of a simple little act in which the marble-shooting champions of Los Angeles were introduced and interviewed, and then requested to put on an actual demonstration of the game. The television camera was moved up for a close-up while the boys "knuckled down" on the studio rug and showed just how they played the game of big-ring marbles. The audience was delighted and so expressed itself in numerous telephone calls and letters to the station.

Of even greater significance was another telecast in which handicraft projects were physically demonstrated. Three representatives of the Playground and Recreation Department were introduced to the television audience. After describing briefly the scope of the arts and handicrafts classes conducted at recreation centers, the participants showed how to hammer and shape art metal objects and how to make attractive objects of pottery. Completed articles were presented to the view of the camera and turned about for inspection.

This program immediately suggests the rich possibilities inherent in television as a medium

through which recreation activities may be taught and demonstrated. Not only arts and handicrafts, but also hobbies such as photography and stamp collecting may be graphically and interestingly brought to the attention of many individuals through this medium.

Other phases in the varied program of recreation likewise offer themselves as excellent subjects for television. Sports, for example, might easily be televised in the form of demonstrations of skills and techniques, the introduction of champions to explain and illustrate their methods of handling tennis rackets, ball bats, basketballs or golf clubs. Instruction in dancing, in dramatics, pageantry, and numerous other activities also could be effectively presented in this way.

Such demonstrations could be followed on the "iconoscope," or cathode-tube receiver screen, in television sets in homes, or could serve groups gathered for instruction around a receiving set located in a recreation center club house.

In Los Angeles, recreational music groups as material for television programs have already been experimented with. A playground harmonica band composed of boys and girls ranging in age from ten to fourteen years was introduced in a telecast and gave a creditable account, gaining many new friends for the public recreation program.

Nature study as a hobby is another subject which would immediately suggest itself for its telecasting possibilities. Recently, in a television demonstration, miniature aquaria were described and the talk was illustrated by the use of a large bowl of goldfish. The subject brought an immediate favorable response from many families, especially those which had young children.

The recreational opportunities which seem to be inherent in television multiply

themselves endlessly. Many of the persons who are beginning to install television receivers in their homes are also photographic hobbyists and make a practice of taking pictures of interesting subjects which come through on their receiver screens. Recently a professor of anthropology was giving a television lecture and using a skull for a demonstration. He held it up before the camera for a moment and then put it down. A few instants later eight telephone requests came in to the studio from members of the audience asking the professor to hold the skull up again. They were camera hobbyists and they wished to obtain photographs of it while it was on the screen.

Another phase of the fascinating television development which may become of great interest to playground and recreation workers is the experimentation in the use of portable television equipment. In Los Angeles, Station W6XAO has portable equipment which is carried about in a light station wagon. This is available for transportation to a playground where an interesting contest,

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**The television camera is shown trucking forward for close-ups of an arts and crafts demonstration**





# Motion Pictures in Recreation Departments

IN MAKING THIS STUDY of the use of motion pictures by recreation departments a brief postcard questionnaire was sent out to various recreation centers in the United States and Canada to find answers to some of the following questions:

1. Does your department use 16mm. silent or sound movies (or both)?
2. Do you use movies for advertising the work of the department; to entertain large groups; or to instruct workers and members in recreation skills?
3. Has your department made any of its own movies? On what subjects; program services of the department, special events such as pageants, playground circuses, winter sports, new facilities being developed, or what else?
4. What subjects do you think would be of greatest interest to groups that you serve?

The questionnaire contained a number of subjects under the classification of sports instruction films, craft and hobby instruction films, travel and entertainment subjects.

A summary of the replies from more than fifty recreation executives covering twenty different states and two Canadian provinces gives the following percentages of interest and use.

- A. On the extent of use of motion pictures
- |   | <i>Number reporting use</i> |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Using 35mm. sound movies in the Department program ..... | 2%                          |
| 2. Using 16mm. sound movies .....                           | 46%                         |
| 3. Using 16mm. silent movies .....                          | 60%                         |
| 4. Using both sound and silent movies.....                  | 6%                          |
- B. Purposes for which movies are used
- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. For advertising the recreation program..... | 40% |
| 2. For entertainment of groups .....           | 70% |
| 3. For instruction of workers in skills.....   | 32% |
- C. Departments who have tried producing their own films .....
- |  |     |
|--|-----|
|  | 30% |
|--|-----|
- (subjects mentioned as having been filmed were May Day, hiking, playground activities, safety and health, model airplane clubs, golf, winter sports, camping and general record films of programs and services.)
- A few leading subjects filmed were as follows:
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Program services .....               | 28% |
| 2. Construction of new facilities ..... | 6%  |
| 3. Playground circuses .....            | 16% |
| 4. Water pageant .....                  | 12% |
| 5. Winter sports .....                  | 12% |
| 6. Camping .....                        | 8%  |
| 7. Other subjects .....                 | 8%  |

On the general questions of what subjects recreation directors were interested in obtaining for use in their programs several classes of films were

A selective survey designed to discover to what extent movies are being used by recreation departments for entertainment, publicity, or worker-training purposes in programs throughout the country has recently been completed by National Film Programs, Inc., a 16-millimeter program arranging company in New York City. Some new trends have been revealed which will be of interest to executives and program planners who are faced with the problem of selecting effective film programs.

By CHARLES HOWARD CUNNINGHAM  
New York City

found to be in great demand as the following tabulation shows.

- D. Sports films wanted
- |                               | <i>Directors desire to use film on subject</i> |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Golf instruction .....     | 46%  |
| 2. Tennis instruction .....   | 68%  |
| 3. Skiing .....               | 34%  |
| 4. Backyard sports .....      | 42%  |
| 5. Canoeing and sailing ..... | 22%  |
| 6. Archery .....              | 54%  |
| 7. Football .....             | 23%  |
| 8. Basketball .....           | 62%  |

This rather conclusively indicates that in the opinion of the recreation directors there is a great need for instruction films on tennis (68%) and basketball (62%) techniques. Archery (54%), and golf (46%), follow close behind as subjects in which motion picture instruction will be widely used when available. A film to show elementary skills in backyard or small area sports such as badminton, paddle tennis, ring tennis, horseshoes, etc., would also be in demand by at least 42% of the reported departments.

In the realm of handicrafts and hobbies there was the greatest demand for a film on leathercraft, on woodworking, and on model airplane construction.

- E. Handicrafts and hobbies
- |                          | <i>Percent of directors reporting need for films</i> |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Leather tooling ..... | 52%  |
| 2. Model planes .....    | 50%  |
| 3. Woodworking .....     | 48%  |
| 4. Beadcraft .....       | 40%  |
| 5. Pottery .....         | 38%  |
| 6. Metalcraft .....      | 36%  |
| 7. Ropecraft .....       | 34%  |

One can readily suppose that a craft-teaching film might be an invaluable supplement to any printed instruction whenever one faces the problem of an enthusiastic group interest in a craft or sport activity and only a moderately skilled leadership for it.

On the question of desire for more films on travel the directors indicated a decided interest in several of the subjects mentioned. Among these topics the idea of having a recreation newsreel to show seasonal activities being carried on in various parts of the country, or in various countries was received with greatest enthusiasm.

F. Travel and other entertainment subjects wanted (some of the prominent subjects mentioned):

	Percentage of directors indicating preference
1. Youth Hostel film .....	32%
2. Ocean cruises .....	16%
3. National parks .....	30%
4. Recreation newsreel .....	66%
5. Comedies and cartoons .....	44%
6. Bicycle trips .....	38%
7. Canoe trips .....	22%

What, if anything, do these few figures indicate?

Certainly the power of the motion picture to tell the recreation story is well recognized by executives around the country. It seems evident that the demand is so great that some departments on finding that the films they want are not available, have tried their hand at producing these films for themselves. Whether such films turn out to be of more than local interest and higher than amateur standard in quality depends a great deal on how much careful planning is done before the "shooting" is commenced. If the Department is lucky enough to secure the services of a serious and advanced amateur movie club, or of an individual amateur of long experience and high cinematographic standards some excellent work can be done. The finest results are obtainable, however, when there is the right combination of careful advance planning of the movie script, wise selection of actors and action, patient and plentiful rehearsals, and professional assistance on the technical details of lighting, shooting, editing, titling, and interpreting the story.

The results of the survey indicate that a great variety of movie films are much in demand by recreation departments. Here exists an opportunity for someone to make a real contribution to the as yet little developed field of visual education in recreation. One can select a project that offers a unique opportunity for filming in a given

locality; get the local movie club interested (or use the idea as a reason for forming a movie club), write a carefully planned, documented and detailed script before exposing any films; then attempt to capture for a recreation hungry public the exact style and technique of the local archery champion, the expert amateur metal craftsman or of any other recreationally interesting skill, novel sport, or unusual pastime that presents a chance to be filmed. If the film turns out to be really instructional, as well as colorful and entertaining and if it is carefully edited to a pace that tells the story without either dragging or jerking, then there is a proven demand for it by recreation audiences from Maine to California and from Florida to Vancouver.

It is only a matter of time before recreation movie exchanges will be set up and a contribution to the recreation movie library on the methods of building ship models for instance, may entitle a recreation department to draw on a host of other recreational film topics from skiing to sketching. When such helps become available the problem of how to interest the public in new recreation opportunities, sports, skills, crafts and hobbies will be greatly simplified. Let the public see it in the movies. A brief action-illustrated movielogue on the means and methods of turning your backyard into a badminton court will arouse plenty of interest. The easy grace of the strokes explained and illustrated by champions, the fun of it for champion and dub alike, can all be captured on film and used to arouse the enthusiasm of the vast uninitiated majority of our recreation public.

Readers of RECREATION will be interested in knowing that there is now available a pamphlet entitled *Motion Pictures in Sports* which contains a bibliography and a film list, as well as a directory of commercial and educational film services. This may be secured at a nominal price from the National Section on Women's Athletics of the American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Still another helpful guide and source of information is "1000 and One," the Blue Book of Non-Theatrical Films published by the Educational Screen, 64 East Lake Street, Chicago. Price 75 cents. This contains lists of films classified under various subjects and giving information regarding each.

# Our Rhythm Band

By MARY STATLER KOONTZ  
Formerly Assistant Director  
Somerset Community Playground  
Somerset, Pennsylvania

ONE OF THE major problems confronting every conscientious playground leader is that of providing material that is interesting and worthwhile, which does not overtax a budget that is usually limited. A recreation leader soon learns to be a jack-of-all-trades. As more activities are offered, more children will be interested, and as the playground attendance increases, one's opportunity for good influence also increases.

The idea of a rhythm band had been smoldering in the back of our minds for several years, but there seemed to be several serious objections to it. First of all, we did not have a broad knowledge of music. A piano was not part of our equipment. Second, we were working on a limited budget, and, although the price of the instruments is not high, we did not feel that it could be added to the other necessary expenditures. In spite of this, we organized a rhythm band in the summer of 1938. It was a good one, and the children loved it.

The first step was obtaining a victrola. We were particularly lucky in securing the use of one owned by a professional dancing teacher who gave lessons in the recreation room. However, many people own antique-looking victrolas which are in surprisingly good repair, and they would be glad to give or lend them for a worthy cause if the need were known.

The selection of music is one of the first considerations. The melody must have a definite accent if the children are to keep time to it without confusion. However, they will soon learn that there is a great deal more required than just "keeping time." They must interpret the mood and character of the music also, so it is important for the selection to have several (but not too many) moods. This will train the children to use discrimination in the selection of the various instruments which will express the desired results. Many Victor records lend themselves particularly well to this type of music, and the study of any Victor catalog should be an aid in making a wise choice. We used:

"My purpose in recording our experiences," writes Mrs. Koontz, "is to encourage others to organize a rhythm band on playgrounds or in camps. It will take a reasonable amount of ingenuity and a lot of hard work, but the happiness the children will derive from it will be more than worth every ounce of energy put into it."

*Amaryllis* by Ghys (Victor Concert Orchestra).....No. 20169B

*Parade of the Wooden Soldiers* by Leon Jessel (Paul Whiteman and his Orchestra) No. 21304A

*Stars and Stripes Forever* by John Philip Sousa (Philadelphia Orchestra) .....No. 1441

*National Emblem* by E. E. Bagley (Arthur Pryor's Band) No. 19842

*Amaryllis* is especially well adapted for this kind of work. Marches are good to develop a feeling for rhythm, but usually they do not express more than one mood—a criticism which

may make something else more desirable, for part of the work at least. Remember the opportunity you have to secure records from music clubs as well as from individuals. Let your needs be known through the playground grapevine system or the daily paper, and you will probably have enough records to keep you busy for years. You need only use those which are best.

The construction of the instruments was the most difficult task, but I must hasten to add that it was also the most interesting. We encouraged original suggestions for instruments as well as for their decoration. Whenever possible, we urged the children to use their own ideas. The president of a local lumber company donated the wood we needed, allowing us to select the various sizes and shapes that would be most useful. Credit must be given to two members of the Playground Committee who made the stand for the chimes and attached the handles to the wood blocks and cymbals. In carrying through a project such as this, don't fail to enlist all the help you can get. Your energies can then be turned to something that would otherwise remain undone.

A complete description of the instruments we made and used will be found at the end of this article. Most of them were made in the handcraft classes, and we found they did not cost any more than the regular projects. One week we made tambourines. They were quite popular and almost every child made one of them. The following week we made drums and horns and painted bottles of various sizes and shapes. Another week we made sand blocks, wood blocks, rhythm sticks,



and a peculiar looking, original arrangement which became known as chimes.

### The Band in Action

By this time almost every child had made a complete band of his own. Many of the children told me they practiced at home to the radio or victrola, and some just sang their accompaniment. We were afraid some of the parents would wish the instruments and the originators of the idea in Timbuctoo, and so we were agreeably surprised when many of the parents spoke favorably to us about it. Several of them had discovered latent musical ability in their children. Many of them had begun to talk about music and musical instruments, which fact, in itself, was a step nearer the goal. All of them were definitely interested, which is probably the secret of the success of the enterprise.

Two complete sets of instruments were kept at the playground. One was used for our daily practices, and one was kept for display purposes and public appearances.

With the preliminary work completed, a definite hour was set aside for practice—eleven to twelve o'clock each morning. Again we made use of the properties at hand. Two low benches about eighteen feet long, which were the benches to the handcraft tables, were placed in a V shape. On one bench were the tambourines, wood blocks, sand blocks, bottles, a drum, and a bell. On the other bench were chimes, wood blocks, cymbals, horns and a drum. Another low bench about four feet long was placed near the front of the V and held three pairs of rhythm sticks.

At the appointed hour, a roomful of children ranging in age from four to fourteen assembled. The younger children could handle the rhythm sticks, sand blocks, wood blocks, cymbals, and tambourines quite well. The other instruments such as the drums, chimes, bottles, and horns were handled more efficiently by the older children. However, they took turns using the various instruments, and each child who came to practice was given an opportunity to play at some time during the hour. We avoided assigning children to play definite instruments, fearing it would discourage others from trying them.

It soon became evident that most of the children had selected some particular instrument as their favorite and that they could handle it better than the others. Consequently, about a week before a public appearance, we held a "try out" and

chose the individuals to comprise "The Playground Band." This method was repeated before each performance, so that each child felt that he had a chance and that there would be no partiality.

There is no need to go into detail with the progress or with the mistakes we made, except to say that we never had a practice without an eager waiting list.

We tried to allow the children as much freedom as possible in developing their own orchestrations. Every child has a natural creative instinct, and it is a fascinating occupation to watch him develop it.

At first we directed the work, but we kept on the lookout for a child to take it over. We reminded ourselves that the same qualities that make a good drum major would also make a good band leader. We found one in the person of a talented little girl who had a splendid sense of rhythm and was at the same time graceful, gracious, and capable of making a good impression wherever she went. A few simple rules on how to hold her baton and the standardized motions to beat time—three-fourths, four-fourths, and six-eighths—were all she needed to give her activities a professional touch. She soon learned to motion to various instruments to begin to play or to stop playing, just as she learned to signal for softer or louder playing. All these little motions helped the slower members to follow more easily, and they also made a splendid appearance during a public performance.

### Things to Avoid

There are a few things to avoid, however, in establishing a rhythm band:

1. Don't scold if the children make mistakes. Playground attendance is not compulsory, you know, and it is your job to keep the children happy above everything else.
2. Avoid competition. Music is an individual pleasure, and enjoyment of music does not always increase in proportion to one's ability to excel in it.
3. Avoid monotony, repetition, and carelessness. What is worth doing at all is worth doing well.
4. Be careful that in enthusiasm or anxiety for perfect response the lesson does not become tiresome. Continue practice only as long as the children enjoy participating in the lesson. Music appreciation is to be desired above skill, but an improvement in attitude will surely be followed by an improvement in skill.

More than anything else, the organization of a rhythm band should develop an atmosphere of happiness. It is an outlet for self-expression which is always a pleasant and worthwhile experience. The children will learn a technique in handling the instruments which will make them more sensitive to the beauty in and the appreciation of good music. Music can do much to develop group spirit and cooperation, and a good rhythm band is a subject for playground and community pride.

### Description of Instruments

We selected the color scheme of red and blue for all the instruments. This combination was very attractive, as the children all wore white for public appearances. An added advantage was that we were able to buy paint and other supplies in large quantities.

#### Tambourines

**Materials.** One paper plate with lip; 12 metal roof caps; 6 pieces of wire three inches long.

**Directions.** Paint entire plate with two coats of paint. Enlarge holes in metal caps. With pliers, twist head on one end of wire. Thread the wire through two roof caps and the plate, and twist the other end. At least one inch of play on wire should be allowed.

#### Cymbals

**Materials.** Lids from tin cans such as coffee or shortening cans; 3-inch pieces of broom handle; nails.

**Directions.** Fasten handle to tin can lid. Paint and trim.

#### Wood Blocks

**Materials.** Finished lumber, 4 x 6 inches; handle, size 1½ x 6 inches; nails.

**Directions.** Take the blocks, some pieces 1 inch thick and others 2 and 3 inches thick, and fasten a handle on each. Paint and trim.

#### Sand Blocks

**Materials.** Same as for wood blocks.

**Directions.** Cover the bottom and sides of the blocks with coarse sand paper. Fasten the sand paper to the blocks by means of thumb tacks with colored heads. We used blue.

#### Rhythm Sticks and Leader's Baton

**Materials.** Half inch oak rounds.

**Directions.** Cut the oak rounds to the desired length. We used pieces 14 inches long for the rhythm sticks and 20 inches long for the baton. Rhythm sticks can

be left unpainted, as they chip easily when in use. Paint baton as desired.

#### Bottles (to resemble a xylophone)

**Materials.** Four bottles of approximate same size.

**Directions.** Paint two bottles red and the other two blue. Put various amounts of water in the bottles and strike them with a rhythm stick.

#### Horns

**Materials.** Cardboard tubes; crepe paper; paste and scissors.

**Directions.** Take the cardboard tubes, which may be the centers from paper towels, waxed paper, or oilcloth. (We used the latter which can be obtained easily from local merchants.) Cut the tubes to the desired length. Cut strips of two colors of crepe paper and twist them around the tubes so that the finished article resembles a barber pole. Short streamers of crepe paper may be fastened at one end. The horns may be equipped with bird whistles.

#### Drums

**Materials** for Type A drums include round paper cartons, such as salt or oatmeal boxes; wall paper, preferably a ceiling paper; construction paper; paste; 2 lead pencils to be used as drum sticks.

**Directions.** Cover sides of box with the wall paper. Cut designs as desired from construction paper and trim it. Strike the drum with the eraser end of the lead pencil drum stick.

**Materials** for Type B drums call for a metal can such as coffee, shortening, or oil can; one-half inch oak round.

**Directions.** Paint and trim as desired. If the drum has a harsh sound, place a piece of old innertube in it. Use the oak round as drumsticks.

**Materials** for Type C drums include earthenware crocks, bowls, or dishes; a wooden chopping bowl.

**Directions.** The earthenware may be used as is. Turn the wooden chopping bowl upside down, or cover it with oiled paper or innertube. Several additions of Type C will give a variety of sound effects. One good drummer can operate several of these instruments.

#### Chimes

**Materials.** Six spikes of different sizes; 12-inch ruler; adhesive tape; wood and nails for stand.

**Directions.** Drill six holes  
(Continued on page 332)

"The man who disparages music as a luxury and non-essential is doing the nation an injury."—Thomas A. Edison.

# "Public Opinion"

By C. H. ENGLISH

Executive Secretary

Playground and Recreation Association  
Philadelphia, Pa.

IN THE RECREATION field we have had surveys on facilities, need for planning, what children want, adult participation, and similar subjects. I do not recall having seen the results of a "public opinion survey" taken of citizens who have invested, through contributions, funds toward a recreation program.

In preparing our annual appeal for memberships we tried to "sense" how people are feeling these days toward supporting quasi-public or private services in a community. Our soundings assured us that there is a resentment toward "high pressure" methods—being forced to make contributions. That attitude has developed so strongly that it has caused many former "charity-minded" citizens to become indifferent, resulting in elimination of all gifts for such purposes. But, "sharing" takes the curse off "force," and the idea of "alternatives" brings a cooperative response. On this assumption, a folder was prepared, the format being a two-colored sketch of a playground in action. In the foreground in a very prominent position is a playground slide on the steps of which are printed the following: self-control, kindness, tolerance, honesty, courage, industry, sportsmanship. Leading up to the slide were "step stones" with each stone carrying one of the following activities: folk dancing, sports, sand play, storytelling, festivals, gardens, games, crafts, music. In one corner is the caption "What's Your Choice?" On the first inside page the reader discovers:

"Hundreds of small children in slum neighborhoods will be vitally affected by the activities offered them on the Tot Lot Playgrounds this spring and summer.

"In the drawing, the stones represent activities on the playgrounds and the steps represent character influences that are obtainable through these activities.

"Will you indicate what activities and character influences you would like stressed on the playgrounds by placing a ✓ opposite the stones and steps?"

" 'Surveys to the left of us, surveys to the right of us, surveys in front of us, surveys in back of us, volleyed and thundered.' Thousands of surveys have been made in the past decade, but in more recent years a new kind has 'Gallup-ed' into town—public opinion surveys. This is not a Gallup report, but it is just as important to us, and perhaps as accurate!"

"The Program Committee is now at work in developing the playground program. They will be glad to have you share in their planning

by returning this folder with your suggestions as soon as possible."

The number of checked returns on this bid to share in our program, while not as great as hoped for, was of sufficient number to give us a guide to their preferences. In a sense, we have a "mandate" from our contributors who supply the funds for operation. The rating is as follows:

1st	Honesty	1st	Crafts
2nd	Self-control	2nd	Gardens
3rd	Kindness	3rd	Sports
4th	Industry	4th	Games
5th	Courage	5th	Music
6th	Tolerance	6th	Storytelling
7th	Sportsmanship	7th	Sand play
		8th	Folk Dancing
		9th	Festivals

Without doubt, the factor in preference of activities would be variable for each community thus canvassed. The importance of gardening in Philadelphia is responsible for the high place that gardens have in this rating. Perhaps the low rating given to festivals is due to a lack of understanding of its importance in a playground program.

In any event, the "public opinion" of our membership has given us several important ideas:

1. It furnished our staff of workers seven subjects on character values to be used in talks at playground assemblies.
2. It gave the executive seven subjects for the staff training institute to call their attention to their own behavior as well as stress such values with their playground participants.
3. It gave us a guide on the type of program we might emphasize.
4. Should these choices of activities represent a general public preference, it would be valuable to the press as an indication of reader interest.

The returns from our appeal were satisfactory. This in spite of decline generally

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# Camping for Mothers

By MRS. H. R. HARVEY  
Recreation Director  
Lansing, Michigan

GRACE—"Doctor *must* I have this operation?"

DOCTOR—"I'm afraid there is no escaping it."

GRACE (*after a pause*)—"Would it prevent me from going to camp the last week in June?"

DOCTOR—"No, I don't think so, if you don't do anything too strenuous."

GRACE—"All right then. Let's get through with it."

This actual conversation gives an idea of what the three day camping trip means to some 120 young women of Lansing, from twenty to sixty years of age!

On Sunday afternoon, June 23rd, cars will come rolling in to Camp Kiroliex, the Boy Scout Camp forty miles away, which is generously turned over to the women for those few days. This will be the fourth consecutive summer for this excursion. The thrill of seeing the lake again, the trees, the hills, the dining hall and the cabins, brings a light to the faces that is a joy to behold. And how the old-timers love to show the beauty spots to the first-comers! "There it is!" "Did you see that?" "Isn't this glorious?" "Hello! Hill-toppers!" "Hi there, Sue!" "Oh, let me show you!"

By 6 P. M. everyone is comfortably settled, some have even had a swim, and husbands and children who may have brought mother have reluctantly returned. Mother is wondering whether she did the right thing in leaving her family. This is all so strange and different, and will Aunt Mary remember to give Shirley Jean her cough syrup and have her say her prayers?

There! A gong! What does that mean? Why supper, of course! From all directions they come in all sorts of togs, heading straight for the dining room. "Did you smell that?" "Am I hungry?" "Yes, sit at any place you please, but first let's join in these two lines of a simple grace of thanks." Isn't it surprising how suddenly the chatter and laughter ceases, but not for long. We are ready for food and here it is! No hesitation now. There! that's better! Maybe things are going to

to be all right, and there is no need to worry.

Tonight being Sunday, let's have a camp fire down by the lake and think things over. By dusk everyone is seated and we quietly think of the meaning of a few of the wonderful verses of the Bible. The sun setting on the lake and the gradual softening of light, the gentle breeze, the fluttering of the leaves and the smell of the pines, the peace and quietness of the place, the shadows on the hills, the sound of the lapping water, the beautiful fire, and the nearness of new and old friends—all of these sink into our souls. Mother decides that she is especially privileged in being able to come; that she will trust in a High Power to look after the family at home, and she knows He will, and she will make the most of these three days so that she will return with new strength and faith and inspiration. Then we sing hymns and favorite old time songs mostly. Anyone starts any song she wants to sing. Sometimes it's more fun to listen than to sing.

At 10 o'clock each one goes to her new cabin home. Shouts and laughter are heard here and there. "Who did that?" "Where are my py-jamas?" But before long camp is quiet and we settle down to a fair night's sleep, knowing full well that we had better make the most of this opportunity.

"It poured and poured the whole night through  
And all of us wondered just what we'd do  
But the sun came out at the break of day  
And sent us merrily on our way."

Monday morning found the camp well washed by a rain which had brought out the many beautiful shades of green. "A few of us took early morning dips, but most of us felt damp enough. However, when we met for the flag raising and breakfast, the sun had dried everything off." Thus wrote our editor Cecil in the News Letter.

What a breakfast! Food never tastes half so well after one prepares it. To sit down to the table and not even know what is to

**The Lansing, Michigan, Board of Park Commissioners has organized a number of recreation clubs for women which meet weekly during the winter. In March these clubs give a Minstrel Show, using the proceeds for a summer camping trip. In this way practically all of the members have their expenses paid, and at the same time they have the fun of putting on the show.**

be set before one, that's the life! Said Alma, "For fifteen years I have prepared three meals a day. This seems too good to be true."

Swimming periods are at 10:30 A. M. and 4 P. M. with an informal water carnival the second afternoon. This is a demonstration of fun and hilarity rather than skill. Many mothers, however, learn to swim a few strokes while at camp and what a satisfaction that is! Thelma is a splendid instructor.

Schedules are announced for boating, softball, volleyball, hiking and handcraft. Some women enjoy the more strenuous activities and others spend hours making corallin rings, belt buckles, leather belts or bracelets. Bertha teaches the crafts and is she good.

The rest period at noon is usually spent in planning the stunts for the evening. The first evening Cassie, as Major Bowes, presented a program that was broadcast over station C.A.M.P. Stunts included Ferdinand the Bull, a small circus, kiddies choir, Seven Wonders of the World, Madam Cox and her pupils of the "Dawnce," nature study, a fan dance, a skit entitled "The Duke," "Roses of Picardy," Wild West songs, "The Kid in the Three-Cornered Pants," and "There ain't no Hubbies with us." By that time letters and telegrams had begun to come in. Three of these were read, one from the Mayor of Lansing, one from Mr. Bancroft, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, and one from Mr. C. E. Neitz, the boy scout executive. This brought a fine program and a wonderful evening to a close, and you might think that a hundred and twenty women would have had enough and be ready to sleep. But you don't know these women! Stories, jokes and tricks kept things lively most of the night. Why waste time in unconsciousness? And if Betty and Bob did these things when they went to camp, mother must also experience them.

However, the next morning found everyone happy and full of pep. Again scheduled activities filled the day. Minnie conducted a scavenger hunt immediately after dinner. The articles called for were: an oak leaf the size of a squirrel's ear; one night crawler or two angle worms; some of Iffy's whiskers; one frog; a Trylon and Perisphere; a long-sleeved night gown; a page from nature; a juicy fruit gum wrapper; a pine cone; one straw ten inches long; one pair of orchid bloomers; a lady bug; a cricket; a cat-tail; one live fish—not gold.

"Two groups tied for first place and both had the bright idea of dying bloomers with crushed mulberries. Popcorn and peanuts were then served and circle two-steps and square dancing were enjoyed."

The nurse, Emma, thought she was having an easy time with only a few sunburns and one slight sprain, but calls at 2 A. M. kept her quite busy. Nothing serious.

The last morning dawns and a rather tired crowd comes up to breakfast. But there are still a few more hours to make the most of and a Mother Goose party is planned. "Where did they find such costumes?" "Isn't that clever?" Mary and her lamb are again made immortal. Final games, swims and hikes are crowded in before the packing begins. Cars arrive! Mother and her blankets are tucked in and with pangs of regret at leaving and one last look at that beautiful lake, mother turns to her family again.

Is that the end? Oh, my, no, it's just the beginning! There is so much to be told! Mother has had such a grand time and living out of doors and making new friends have given her such a new slant on living that she determines to make a special effort to enable Junior to go to camp. What matter if father does drop ashes here and there or throw the newspaper around, he really is quite all right. The washing isn't half so hard to do, and wouldn't it be fun to try that new salad that we had in camp? I believe John would like it. Wasn't Rose funny when she fell in the lake? Oh, and do you remember that sunset?

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"The need in women's camps," a recreation worker of long experience has said, "is for a type of recreation which contains a large amount of the real 'fun' element, and a well-worked out program of cardinal activities." A program of camp activities should accordingly include active group and team games as well as quiet games; activities for picnics and outings; camp fire programs; handcraft instruction which will aid in home beautification; much folk dancing; children's singing; circle and group games; storytelling; music appreciation; simple dramatics and stunts for fun; simple instruction in song leading with emphasis on rounds, fun songs and part songs; nature games leading to the observation of outdoor life; introduction to hobbies; informal talks on reading as recreation, and swimming instruction.

# Lawn Bowling

A game played centuries ago by the kings of England is rapidly growing in popularity in its new setting



**T**HE GAME OF BOWLS, more popularly known as lawn bowling or bowling on the green, and, next to archery, believed to be the oldest competitive sport in the British Empire, is fast becoming one of the leading sports in the United States. The American Lawn Bowling Association was admitted in 1938 to the International Bowling Board which is now comprised of nine English speaking countries.

Public bowling greens are said to have been first established in London in 1455. Considerable discredit became attached to them because many were located near taverns frequented by dissolute persons and gamblers. In fact, the taverns built many greens, and games were played for money which was spent at the taverns. Accordingly the game was looked upon with disfavor by all who wanted sport to be on a high level, and repressive measures were taken.

Henry VIII, in 1541, forbade the working people of his domain to play the game except at Christmas time, and then only in the presence of their masters. He later prohibited bowling greens except those constructed for his own pleasure at Whitehall Palace, where he would

By **CHARLES S. RETTIE**  
Secretary-Treasurer  
American Lawn Bowling Association

often bet on his skill in playing. Charles I (1629-49) was very enthusiastic over the game, but unfortunately he encouraged by his own example betting and playing for high stakes. As a result, gambling became a mania among poor and rich, peasant and nobility. Fortunes were lost and won on the game, and thus once more bowling on the green fell into general disrepute throughout the Empire.

Tradition has it that the nobility embraced the game with such fervor that even queens became virtual bowling "widows";

their husbands stayed out on the bowling greens most of the day, and then went home and boasted about their scores at the dinner table. But the Scotch people came to the rescue, taking up lawn bowling in the summer time as a substitute for curling on the ice in winter, and by the nineteenth century they had so

**Bowling is an ancient sport. The first bowling green of which we have authentic knowledge was constructed at Southampton, England, near Land's End, in 1299. English nobility took up the game in a rudimentary form, but it soon became so popular that it was banned by King and Parliament as a menace to archery, then so important in battle. At Plymouth Hoe, near Land's End, Sir Francis Drake was playing a game of bowls when the Spanish Armada was sighted, and records have it that he insisted on finishing the game before going out to conquer the foe. To this day the inhabitants take great pride in pointing out the green on which Sir Francis played, which is still in use.**



changed the complexion of the game and its standing that it became a summer pastime of men and women of culture throughout the country. Refinements in the construction of the bowls, as well as rules of the game, were introduced.

Clubs and associations of clubs were formed, first in Scotland and later in England and other countries, but chiefly in the possessions of the British Empire, until in more recent years the sport has become truly international in scope, and wherever played has maintained the high standards set by the Scotch people.

History also has it that on occasion when John Knox paid a visit to John Calvin he found him at a game of bowls, and joined with him before settling down to more weighty matters.

Lawn bowling spread with great popularity after the game had been put on a higher plane, and Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Austria, and the United States now form the International Board. Prior to the war teams from these countries visited each other and traveled many thousands of miles to play match games.

#### Lawn Bowling in the United States

The history of lawn bowling in our own country for the most part covers recent times, although as far back as 1615 the game was played in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and a bowling green was built on the estate of George Washington at Mount Vernon. In 1732, New York City fathers leased to three citizens some land at the lower end of Broadway fronting the fort. The name "Bowling Green" has persisted in the locality.

The game was little played after the Revolution for about a hundred years, but in the last century interest has been revived as men going to Scotland and England have seen it played and participated in it. In Boston a recognized tournament was held in 1898, and about the same time a group of clubs was organized at the Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. The California Association was formed in 1908, and clubs were organized all along the Pacific Coast.

During 1915 the American

**In an article of this type it is not feasible to give the rules of bowling on the green. These are readily obtainable from the American Lawn Bowling Association, 375 West Preston Street, Hartford, Connecticut, or from any of the clubs throughout the country.**

Lawn Bowling Association was organized, and the first tournament sponsored by that body was played in Boston in August, 1918. Since then the game has made remarkable progress, all cities of any size in New England having one or more

bowling greens, and the future looks bright for the growth of the sport. Park departments of American cities consider a bowling green "a method of putting life into the locality without marring its beauty," and private country clubs, too, are building greens for the same reason. Under the American Lawn Bowling Association from 15,000 to 20,000 bowlers are enrolled, and inquiries are being received by the officials of the Association almost daily for information regarding the specifications for building bowling greens. Approximately twenty new greens are being constructed at the present time.

It is the firm conviction of ardent bowlers that if the public fully realizes the great value of lawn bowling as a medium of health and enjoyment, every village and town, in addition to large cities, would demand a bowling green. It is the only outdoor game that can be played by a boy of eighteen or a man of eighty with equal skill and interest. There is no injurious physical strain. It is a man's game without being a man-killing game, and those who play it believe it is the only game for the man over thirty-five.

The fascination of lawn bowling, the skill required, the exercise afforded, can be learned only by actual participation. It is ideal recreation for those who need outdoor exercise of a stimulating kind. It is a haven of refuge for those whose physical condition forbids the strain of more vigorous sports. Country clubs are finding that the game makes it possible for them to keep their members when they have reached the inevitable stage at which golf becomes too strenuous. They will remain members to bowl on the green.

In private lawn bowling clubs, with their clubhouses for social functions, lies the great future of the game. At such clubs the women become as enthusiastic bowlers as the men.

Originally the bowls, which  
(Continued on page 332)

**Individuals who wish to see bowling on the green played under ideal conditions are urged to include a visit to Detroit in their vacation itineraries. From August 12-15 the tournament of the Eastern Division of the A.L.B.A. will be held, with approximately three hundred bowlers in competition. Arrangements will be made at the Detroit meeting to take further steps to promote this fine old game throughout the United States.**

# Kayak Sailing — a Sport with Thrills!

By JAMES L. JACKSON

Assistant

Physical Education for Men

University of Illinois

**D**URING THE summer of 1939 while working at Camp Wooster, a large boys' camp in northern Illinois which had a renewal of its 315 campers every two weeks, I built three sailing rigs, all of different styles, and taught about twenty boys to sail in the last few weeks of the summer. This activity was in addition to the regular camp routine. Next summer the sport is to be taught as a regular class hobby and several new rigs are projected, some to be constructed by the boys.

The idea of sailing was suggested by a dozen light and fast canvas kayaks the camp owned. Ten feet long, decked fore and aft, and having a beam of only twenty-eight inches, these one-man kayaks tended to skim the surface. The first sailboat consisted of a kayak equipped with demountable leeboards, a small rudder, and gaff-and-jib rigged sails. This was fairly fast and sailed close to the wind but was apt to tip.

This tippiness led to the construction of demountable pontoons for the second boat. The pontoon-cans were made of soldered sheet-metal, and the pontoon crossbar also supported the mast and its lanteen sail of forty square feet. This second boat did not sail as close to the wind because of inadequate keelage, but was much more exciting because of its greater power and speed. This boat was capsize-proof, as was the third.

The resistance of the first pontoons made it advisable to attempt much greater streamlining on the next set. The third boat had slender half-moon pontoons that acted as keels as well as stabilizers and a tall cutter rig of sixty square feet. Despite the jib's refusal to sheet tightly, the boat constructed last was much faster than its predecessors, attaining speeds of twelve miles an hour.

From these types a better composite type can be drawn which would probably be a kayak with demountable half-moon pontoons and a lanteen rig, for these give a maximum of safety, speed, and maneuverability. The pontoons are absolutely necessary if one is to take full

advantage of windy days, and they are an essential safety factor in teaching. The lanteen rig can be large enough to give the student considerable speed with-

out being too difficult for the student to handle. And the lanteen, having jib and mainsail controlled by a single line, gives the student simplicity of control with a rig complex enough to allow the fairly difficult action of jibbing off.

The usual difficulties of teaching were made light by the desire of the students to handle a boat themselves. It was found that the two-week periods of camp were too short for satisfactory teaching, but one boy who was allowed to extend his stay for another two-week period attained considerable proficiency. An instruction period of from two to three hours was necessary to instill the principles of sailing and the names and actions of the parts of the boat. A test on this insured the student's attention. A definite knowledge of the forces operating is necessary as these are sometimes difficult to notice in such a small craft. As quickly as possible the boys were allowed to take out the lanteen-rigged kayak. They usually went out before the wind, took a broad reach, and came back on one or two tacks. Those who succeeded in returning under sail were given some further instruction in navigation. On all trips the instructor followed in a rowboat for safety and, if necessary, to direct sailing.

It was gratifying to see the excitement that shone in the faces of the boys who completed the initial sail. Operating a new and extremely small craft which gave the boys the impression of their having surprising speed and power under their control was a great adventure for them. Many who learned were underprivileged boys from slum

areas of Chicago, and while the contribution in poise and self-confidence could not be measured, it was obviously present.

Simple safety measures were taught and observed. The boys were always followed by the instructor's rowboat, and while this was

Once a fairly expensive sport, kayak sailing can now be made an activity for summer camps, schools, and recreation areas near bodies of water, and the thrill of individual small boat sailing can be brought to boys as young as fifteen years of age. It is the author's experience that these boats can be made safe while retaining all the excitement of sailing, and that they can be built for less than twenty-five dollars.

onerous it was certainly safe. The pontoons practically precluded any possibility of tipping. The boys were instructed to tread water if the pontoon crossbar should break and the boat capsize, and to hold on to the kayak, which would support them until help arrived. A balsa torpedo float was carried in the kayak and its use demonstrated. As some of the boys who passed the test were not strong swimmers, these precautions were necessary. Actually, not a student capsized a boat, and the instructor was unlucky only once, in the leeboard kayak.

The question of expense of construction was, of course, present. The kayaks were built a few years ago from fifteen-dollar kits. The first two rigs, of maple and sheet-metal, were inexpensive, and even when cypress was used in the last rig the expense was under ten dollars. For a while sheets were used as sail material, and then unbleached muslin. The author had the enjoyable experience of making his own rigs, devoting about three days' work to each. It is quite possible that the students could learn some of the principles of sailing by helping in this construction work. With good care and painting the masts, booms, stays, rudders, and pontoons should last four to six years, as long as will the kayaks themselves. The sails and running lines must be reckoned expendable.

In the last few weeks of camp we learned how to make a Genoa jib, and constructed one without difficulty. This jib gave great power rigged with the leeboard gaff set. It was involved to handle but delightful in jibbing off. When the wind was too strong for the full rig, and the leeboard craft

**"The paddling and technique connected with kayaking make excellent aquatic activities which you can feel safe in promoting. The construction, however, takes close supervision and must be accurately done. The expense is minor."**—  
**C. P. L. Nicholls, Supervisor of Aquatics, Los Angeles Recreation Department.**

was in danger of capsizing in the gusts, the mainsail could be lowered and the craft sailed and tacked on the jib alone.

No student stayed at camp long enough to attain the skill necessary to handle this rig, but with additional time the

boys could have mastered it.

Some interesting information comes from Frank M. Davenport, Supervisor of Aquatics, Long Beach, California, Recreation Commission.

About three years ago the Recreation Commission of Long Beach, California, conducted an experiment in kayak building to determine whether or not this activity would adapt itself well to the program. The experiment proved successful, and at some future time the activity will be made a permanent part of the program.

The method followed during the experiment was similar to that used in model boat building; that is, the individual purchased materials and supplies from the Commission at actual cost. The Commission furnished plans, instruction, supervision, and the shop.

*(Continued on page 334)*



*Courtesy Long Beach Recreation Commission*



## O.W.R.C.

"O.W.R.C."—not the name of a new radio station, as the letters might suggest, but the "Oakland Women's Rowing Club." An honorary member tells the story.



THE OAKLAND Women's Rowing Club, organized by the Oakland Recreation Department, is now entering the twenty-fifth year of its uninterrupted existence, with fifteen of its charter members still enjoying many a brisk row on Oakland's beautiful Lake Merritt.

This lake, with an area of 165 acres, bordered by lovely Lakeside Park, has always been one of Oakland's most attractive features. But as so often happens, this unique beauty spot, ideally situated within a ten-minutes' walk from the center of the business district, received but little special recognition or acclaim. It was not until 1913 that two municipal boat houses were built and placed under the sponsorship of the Department of Playground and Recreation. Passenger launches, row boats, canoes and a few sail boats were offered the public at a nominal rental charge. There was an immediate hearty response to this "Enjoy your Lake" idea. Citizens of Oakland now took great pride in the fact that very few cities could boast of so vast a water playground in the very heart of things. The Department of Playground and Recreation immediately made plans to list rowing among its major sports. Boats and instruction were offered without charge in an effort to organize crews among playground groups, schools, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., industrial and city employees.

Crews of men and boys soon dotted the Lake, but there was but little response from women and girls. Any plan to organize sports for them was quite revolutionary in 1914-15. A few women, however, had displayed an active interest in organized volleyball teams. These were appealed to to boost beautiful Lake Merritt.

In 1916, after much persuasion and many "try-outs," about twenty of these women were formally organized as the Oakland Women's Rowing Club, with a constitution, by-laws, oar-drills, a nautical vocabulary plus a keen enjoyment and appreciation of their weekly instruction from efficient coxswains, several of whom came from the nearby Naval Training Station, Yerba Buena Island.

Their record of achievement since that far-off day is an interesting one. Not only did their enthusiasm and skill make rowing popular, but they soon proved what an influence an intelligently planned and well-governed group of women can exert in the city's general welfare. There are many instances of their civic-mindedness. One, which had a special appeal for these Lake "enthusiasts," was a proposed "Necklace of Lights" to encircle the six-mile radius of Lake Merritt. When it was learned that the plan could materialize only through the willingness of local groups—Masons, Elks, Rotarians, and so on—to purchase the necessary electroliers, the "O. W. R. C." was among the first to step forward with a check for the required amount. Another movement to "popularize" the Lake was an occasional elaborate Regatta. Here again the O. W. R. C. scored. Not only did they cooperate with the Department of Playground and Recreation to awaken an interest in these affairs, but expended such effort and expense that the boats assigned to them set a standard for decoration for years to come.

In 1919, the Club's endorsement of Oakland's first great Community Christmas Pageant, and its participation in it, was one of the potent factors in making this pageant one of the city's most beautiful traditions. In 1939,

(Continued on page 335)

# San Antonio's Puppet Theater

By PHYLLIS-ANNE STEINBERG

**T**HE KEYNOTE to the success of any recreation program is the intelligent use of the material at hand, whether that material be personalities or an abandoned church. The entire program of the City Recreation Department of San Antonio illustrates this

point, but perhaps the Puppet Theater, an experiment by the dramatics division, offers the best example.

The object of the theater is to train playground leaders in all phases of puppeteering, from the making of the puppets to their manipulation. Each member of the group takes his turn at stage managing, holding the book, speaking lines, building props and designing sets, so that all will be well-rounded puppeteers when the program is complete. But, human nature being what it is, each surpasses the other in some particular field. Consequently they teach one another, learning while they teach.

## Old Church Becomes Theater

The location of the theater itself is an interesting example of the intelligent use of the material at hand. In La Villita—"The Little Village"—an historic section of San Antonio which is undergoing restoration, stands a funny little old church with a tremendously high roof and an almost miniature auditorium. When the question came up of where to establish a puppet theater, the unused church seemed the logical answer. There was something so appealing about the little building that even had funds been plentiful it would have been a pity to renovate it too completely. Playground leaders gave the plaster walls a good scrubbing, treated the floor of random-width planks to a coat of crude oil, and replaced broken window panes. They built a ship-lap partition to form a proscenium, framing a regulation puppet stage.

Through such experiments as the Puppet Theater, the Recreation Department of San Antonio has learned that it is not necessary to wait for plentiful funds before starting a recreation program. Imagination and creative ability can stretch a small budget to amazing proportions. And a spark of enthusiasm within the Recreation Department itself will spread through a city like wildfire.

Behind this proscenium eight playground leaders are receiving the training which, in a short time, will make them qualified puppet experts. The City of San Antonio employs fourteen playground leaders, but this group is supplemented by forty WPA workers, and these are the

leaders who are being trained in the puppet theater. Under the leadership of William P. Witt, Superintendent of the City's Recreation Department, the WPA workers and the city's own employees work together most effectively. Mr. Witt takes as lively an interest in the Puppet Theater as he does in all the other activities of his department.

The interest that Mayor Maury Maverick and Commissioner Henry Hein show in recreation is also a contributing factor to the success of the program. The puppeteers had a great deal of fun making a tiny caricature of the mayor, and he himself had fun making a phonograph recording for the puppet's speech and watching himself appear in miniature on the stage.

If you step into the theater between performances your eyes and ears will be greeted by a variety of sights and sounds. Perhaps a sewing machine, a hammer and a saw will all be going at the same time, while a phonograph gives forth a series of bombardment effect for the next play, "The Fall of the Alamo." One youth may be perched on top of a step-ladder, pasting cutout cellophane designs on the windows, while a young woman cuts out others and hands them up to him.

## Window Decorations

The windows deserve a paragraph by themselves, as they have turned out to be an interesting experiment in decoration, and as they illustrate the possibility of gaining community interest in recreation through lay leadership.

Mrs. Steinberg has written many articles and stories colored by her travels with her father, Colonel Arthur M. Shaw, consulting engineer, whose profession took him, and often his family, to many interesting parts of the globe. She is now making her home in San Antonio where her husband is a practising physician.

(Continued on page 335)

## Speakers at the Recreation Congress



Hon. HAROLD H. BURTON  
Mayor of Cleveland



Hon. FIORELLO LA GUARDIA  
Mayor of New York City



G. OTT ROMNEY  
National Director Recreation Section, WPA



HENRY NOBLE MAC CRACKEN  
President, Vassar College



# Boating

By JOSEPH LEE  
Boston, Massachusetts

**T**HE QUESTION of discipline in a boating program is peculiar.

The wind is the boss. In particular, the storm or heavy wind, in anticipation of which your entire instruction is directed, is the ultimate boss. This means that the supervisors speak with the authority of the wind. Navy discipline is no good, because the participants do not remain under the eye or within the voice of the man in charge. A sympathetic, reasonable approach is no good, because the weather is unsympathetic, vicious, and unreasonable. (If you relax on shore, you are still there when you unrelax, but if you relax in a sailboat, you are probably under the surface when you come to.) The best approach, thus to kindle in the new sailor the realization that attention to uninteresting details and principles means eventual safety and supremacy among the elements, is that of the football coach. The boat landing should always present the atmosphere of a full-rigged ship in a gale with a bull-throated mate in charge, ready to enforce his orders with his fists. A reasonable approach can exist during the period of actual instruction and explanation of how to sail, and again after hours or away from the landing. But not on the landing! (After a year when older boys are developed, a system of chiefs or chief petty officers among them can be set up, which greatly relieves the strain and does away with the need of such an imperative central authority.)

## Type of Boat

The question of the type of boat wears itself around inevitably to a single definite conclusion. The boat must be small enough for a boy to sail alone and to hold on to the sail in his hand alone all afternoon without getting tired. A boat is impossible with a sail so large that the sheet must be cleated or passed through a pulley, since it must be ready at all times to be instantly let go by relaxing the grip. The occupant must sit on the bottom or floor of the boat, as it is a senseless flirting with danger to have him sit up on

At the section meeting on Model Boating at the Boston Recreation Congress, Joseph Lee, son of the late president of the National Recreation Association, offered some practical suggestions from his experience in promoting boating on the Charles River. Mr. Lee, a member of the Boston School Committee, is doing much to help provide boating and swimming places for people of Boston.

a seat or thwart. These requirements will give you a boat less than a yard wide across the bottom and

of indeterminate length. For cheapness it will be flat-bottomed, with flat, flaring sides. The boat should, of course, be lively, sensitive, and fun to sail (and preferably good looking). It should have a bamboo mast for cheapness' sake. In any worthwhile public boating program, with large numbers involved, the boats should be such as can be stacked one on top of another on the landing, so as to save space and center the program. A boy can learn to sail only by being in a boat by himself. Rowboats are not good to begin on, as the wind does not exert sharp enough discipline over a rowboat, and the boys will fool, learn little or nothing, and usually lose interest.

## Location

Without difficult and costly precautions it will be unwise to have a sailing area in any place where headland, cove, or other obstacles obstruct the view of the complete area. An area of warm water is extremely desirable, because of possible capsizing. An exposed bay that lets out to the ocean is a tremendous difficulty (unless the wind blows perpetually on-shore). With an exposed bay, at least two motor boats would have to do patrol duty with at least six kayaks on the deck of each to be manned by older boys from aboard the patrol boat, when arrival of a strong wind necessitates deploying in different directions and herding up a lot of boats at once.

## Sailing Instruction

- (1) If you upset, hang on to your boat.
- (2) If the boat tips too much, let go of the rope in your hand by which you hold the sail.
- (3) In turning around to come back, always move the stick (or tiller) in your hand toward the side which the sail is held out on.
- (4) Always let the sail swing out as far as it wants to over the side until you

(Continued on page 334)

# A Spring Clean-up Campaign



A STORY OF HOW a neighborhood of 773 families made its own playground was related in an article published in the April 1939 issue of Recreation. The story told how a group of socially-minded citizens got together, discussed the apparent need for a safe play area, made a survey of the district, discovering the fact that for the 1,455 children the nearest playground was a mile away, secured a 15,000 square foot lot of land, and then, with fathers and their sons laboring with pick and shovel, and with the City of Boston contributing gravel and a steam roller, constructed a real playground.

This area has been used continually by the entire neighborhood for softball, volleyball, horseshoes, tether ball, field hockey and football. In general, it has helped to care for the play needs of about 160 little children daily from early spring through the fall, with eighteen Central Square Center leaders who live in the neighborhood serving as supervisors.

Because of the success of this project the neighborhood, and especially the twenty-eight socially-minded citizens who had organized themselves into the Neighborhood Playground Association, became more optimistic in regard to their problems. There was a growing realization that the people themselves can do much in working out local problems and that they can secure the interest and coopera-

By LAWRENCE C. WOODBURY  
Boys' Director  
Central Square Center  
East Boston Social Centers Council

tion of the City. This new confidence caused the group to tackle another one of the existing vital problems.

At a meeting of the Association, discussion centered around the unsanitary conditions of many backyards and alleys. It was pointed out that many families, lacking sufficient trash and garbage cans, were throwing all their waste out the back windows. Often trash was put out for the collectors in cartons which came apart on rainy or windy days, or they were kicked apart by the children, with trash scattered everywhere. The Association admitted that the city was doing its part in the problems of sanitation but that the citizens were at fault.

A Spring Clean-up Campaign was suggested, and the idea was enthusiastically received by all. Details were outlined in a series of meetings. The many children who had been using the new playground, the Central Square Center clubs, the neighborhood parents, and the Boy Scouts sponsored by the Association all came together for a mass meet-

(Continued on page 338)

# What They Say About Recreation

"RECREATION, in my opinion, is the remedy for many human ills that prevail today. I do not need to point out the important role that recreation plays in the National Park program. . . . Without detracting in the slightest from the importance of any other factors, it may be said that perhaps the greatest assets these parks possess are the opportunities for recreation which they afford to the millions of American citizens who visit them each year."—*Harold L. Ickes.*

"No community should delude itself with the happy thought that it may support a recreation program as a substitute for an integrated program of delinquency prevention and care. But certainly there is a relationship between idle-time, misdirected energy, vicious commercial recreation and behaviour difficulties. A public and private recreation program should, therefore, be operated as a part of a community attack on delinquency."—*June and Arthur Guild in Social Work Engineering.*

"In my opinion provision of proper playground facilities for our young people is of the utmost importance in building a crime-free America. I know of no more responsible position than that of supervisor of the activities engaged in by children on these playgrounds. Leaders of the children naturally exert a great influence over them. Their words and actions will be imitated and reflected upon. It is for this reason that I urge these leaders to accept the responsibilities placed upon them and exemplify at all times sportsmanship and manliness."—*J. Edgar Hoover.*

"There can be no drudgery in creation. The knowledge that one is of oneself creating something gives one the fine frenzy of the sculptor, the painter, the illustrator, the architect and the author, than which there is not greater joy for child or man."—*Daniel Carter Beard.*

"Human beings require recreation, especially in youth, to train both mind and body, to meet the need for comradeship, and develop ability to cooperate with others in work as well as play. Today provision for recreation should be recognized as a public responsibility shared by private agencies. Recreational facilities include parks and

playgrounds, libraries, athletic fields, museums, camp sites, and trained supervision. A large extension of these facilities will in the long run prove a profitable investment."—From White House Conference on Children in a Democracy.

"The expression of all races which is found in the amalgam of things American reflects the vitality of a new country whose folk lore of songs, dances, drama, handicrafts, legends and superstitions are still being made. The old and the new have a place in the cultural, educational and recreational life of today."—*Thad Thomas, National Folk Festival.*

"The promotion of leisure-time activity and the development of recreational facilities have often been justified on various grounds such as health, prevention of crime, the keeping of mental balance in time of unemployment, or as a counterbalance to the force of routine employment. Even if all of these justifications are legitimate, they are nevertheless unnecessary. Well-rounded living necessitates wholesome use of leisure. Recreation is health, vigor, romance, and fullness of living, and should be accepted as a necessity for living as much as eating and sleeping."—*Bruce L. Melvin in Youth—Millions Too Many?*

"The great challenge to government today is how to apply the discoveries of science to the art of living."—*Fiorello La Guardia.*

"Besides all the other values of the national forests there are human values. The tempo of our daily lives has speeded up. Each year we experience less of natural physical activity and greater mental strain. In bustling office or crowded street we long for the friendly forest. Woodland recreation fills a definite need in our lives now, and we plan for it consciously."—From *Forest Outings*, edited by *Russell Lord.*

"The development of interest and of some degree of proficiency in sports and activities of an individual nature which have lifelong possibilities for enjoyment and participation needs to be encouraged in school programs."—From *The Bulletin* of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, November, 1939.



# It's Being Done in Nature Recreation

## Cap'n Bill's Column of Nature-Grams

**H**OME Dyeing with Natural Dyes is the title of Miscellaneous Publications 230, obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price five cents. The pamphlet has reliable information for leaders who would go prospecting for natural dyes. Harlow House, Plymouth, Massachusetts, is teaching this art in summer courses.

*Sanctuary and Nature Trail Survey.* This survey, made in 1939 by the Conservation Committee of the Garden Club of America, 598 Madison Avenue, New York City, is excellent if you need something to convince board members of the need for a native plant and song bird sanctuary, fern garden, nature trail, or a special outdoor educational area.

*S.O.S. for a Continent.* A pictorial map to show the reckless exploitation of North America and the upsetting of Nature's balance. This map may be secured for 10 cents from the *Natural History Magazine*, American Museum of Natural History, New York City.

*The Constitution of the Sheffield Associates,* Sheffield, Massachusetts, specifically advocates the preservation of the residential character of Sheffield Village; the encouragement of gardening; the beautifying of streams; and vigilant care in preventing danger to the esthetic beauty of the town.

*Bibliography of Nature Study.* This bibliography of 45 pages edited by Eva L. Gordon may be secured from the Comstock Publishing Company, Ithaca, New York. Price 25 cents.

*Pittsfield State Forest,* under the auspices of the Massachusetts Conservation Commission, has inaugurated a naturalist program. Kenneth Howland, Duxbury, Massachusetts, a senior at Massachusetts

State College, is the ranger-naturalist in charge of developing the new program.

*The Bald Eagle,* our national bird, will now be protected by law. There was danger of extermination until the bill providing for protection was recently passed by the House and Senate. Where is the nearest aerie to your locality?

*The New Nature Story Magazine,* a new nature story magazine for children, has just appeared. Thornton W. Burgess is editor. The magazine will appear monthly and will sell at 10 cents a copy. The first issue has twenty-four stories and sixteen pages of "Mother Nature's News." Write the Audubon Society, 66 Newbury Street, Boston.

*Ivy Poisoning.* A six page pamphlet on this subject has been issued by the Division of Public Health Education, State Department of Health, Albany, New York.

*Food and Health* from wild greens or pot herbs is a four page illustrated leaflet published by the State Department of Health, Albany, New York. You will find it helpful on a forage trip.

*Flower Arranging.* This 54-page multicolored 7½ inch square booklet with photographs may be secured for 10 cents from the Coca Cola Company, Atlanta, Georgia.

*Forest Fire Prevention Posters* (14" by 19") may be secured from the United States Forest Service, Washington, D. C.

*Meal Worms for Fish Bait and Food for Birds.* Directions for rearing will be found in Leaflet 195, just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

### A MESSAGE FROM CAP'N BILL

"All progressive recreation leaders are confronted with a difficult and important problem—how to keep abreast of the rapid strides in nature recreation. *Nature-grams* will help solve this problem. If each recreation leader will describe his most successful nature project on a postcard and send it to me at Massachusetts State College, Amherst, he will serve a vital purpose in nature recreation. Place a 'nature-gram' on your 'must' list. For every nature-gram cast on the water you will receive a hundred in reply from this column."

*Nature Recreation Stories Wanted.* V. K. Brown, Director of Recreation, Chicago Park District, has had mimeographed a bulletin of six pages which lists publications that would welcome stories about nature recreation.

Nature-grams would be abstracts of these stories.

*National Grandmother's Day* was held at the Grandmother's Garden, Westfield, Massachusetts, June 19, 1940. The program was given entirely by talented grandmothers.

*Laurel Vespers* were held June 23, 1940 on Phelon Hill, Granville, Massachusetts. Choral singing, community singing, and an address by an outstanding speaker were some of the features of the service held in the beautiful natural amphitheater.

"*Laurel Way*" is the name for Route 20, or the Mohawk Trail along the Westfield River through the Berkshires. The Massachusetts Department of Public Works plants 5,000 laurel shrubs on this route each year.

*The Old World Chateau and the Northfield Inn* at East Northfield, Massachusetts, in the Connecticut Valley have a permanent nature guide. This service to guests is considered as important as golf. The guests are taken on nature hikes, may listen to nature talks in the lobby, and may have self-guiding nature trails. Robert Cole is resident naturalist.

*American Forests*, July 1940, says: "Sometimes beside the trail there is a birch with a dark band showing where some traveler had stripped off white outer bark. The one who did this is a lover of the wilds—not because he wanted the bark, but because he came here. Yet all hikers of this wilderness path from now on must see the ugly mutilation he has caused in the otherwise perfect forest. Could he not have enjoyed the beauty of his surroundings and left the forest as others have left it for him?"

#### *Traditional American Rights* \*.

"To 'drop upon the pastures of the wilderness, to shout for joy, also to sing,' as did the Psalmist.

"To live as did Sam Walter Foss in a 'house by the side of the road and be a friend of man.'

"To rise and follow when the gypsy blood's astir, like Bliss Carman.

"To obey Wordsworth's command to 'go forth into the light of things; let Nature be your teacher.'

"To tramp the fields as did Whittier's Barefoot Boy; and to know the breath of new-mown hay, like Maud Muller.

We are hoping for a very enthusiastic response to Dr. Vinal's request for nature-grams for this column, which should prove a very helpful one if our readers will cooperate. With the Society of Recreation Workers of America making the promotion of nature recreation their chief objective for the current year, 1940 should record real progress in this important phase of the recreation movement.

"To travel with Nesbit 'the little roads that find the hidden ways.'

"To explore new frontiers, as advised Horace Greeley.

"To angle a creek yielding a bounty of fish, as did Izaak Walton; or just to 'dangle your legs where the fishing is good,' as did Riley.

"To turn up the nest of a field mouse, like Bobbie Burns.

"To climb trees like Davy Crockett.

"To plant and conserve like Apple-seed John.

"To go to the 'old swimmin' hole' (unpolluted), as did James Whitcomb Riley.

"To learn the language of all the woodfolk; to learn their names and all their secrets; to be a brother to Hiawatha.

"To quench thirst from a sparkling spring with safety, as did Leatherstocking with his noggin cup.

"To bind a canoe together with fibrous roots of the tamarack, as did Hiawatha.

"To see with the eyes of Audubon wild birds in their native habitat.

"To live with butterflies, as did the Girl of the Limberlost.

"To watch the first red blaze appear, hear the sharp crackle, catch the gleam, as Whittier did.

"To see with Walt Whitman that the secret of making the best persons is 'to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth.'

"To know with Browning that 'the lark's on the wing; the snail's on the thorn.'

"To believe with Shakespeare that there are 'sermons in stones and good in everything.'

"To think with Lowell that 'there's never a leaf nor a blade too mean to be some happy creature's palace.'

"To sing with Stevenson, 'Happy hearts and happy faces, happy play in grassy places.'

"To return home as did James Whitcomb Riley . . . 'With a pictur' that no painter has the colorin' to mock —

When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock.'"

\* Extracts from *Traditional American Rights*, by Cap'n Bill. Published by courtesy of the Camp Department, *Cosmopolitan Magazine*.

# World at Play

## Civic Opera Company in Wilkes-Barre

THE WILKES-BARRE Civic Opera Company, according to the 1939 report of the Playground and Recreation Association of Wyoming Valley, has a membership of forty-five. The first production, "The Yeoman of the Guard," was presented to an audience of 1,200 people. The second opera produced was "The Gondoliers." The Opera Company is an outgrowth of the Woman's Municipal Chorus and is a greatly enjoyed and appreciated feature of the recreation program.



*Courtesy Wyoming Valley Playground and Recreation Association*

## Many Visits to the National Forests

THE NATIONAL forests now attract each year more than 32,000,000 visitors who spend almost a quarter of a billion dollars on their trips. Although the peak season comes between commencement time and Labor Day, winter sports are increasing and over a million people are now using the newly developed winter play areas in fifty of the national forests. There are in all 161 national forests in forty states, Alaska, and Porto Rico.

## More Playgrounds for New York

WITH THE acquisition by the New York City Department of Parks of a six-acre property transferred from the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, the Park Department announces 327 new or reconstructed playgrounds completed since January, 1934. At that time there were 119 playgrounds in the five boroughs; at present there are 405. The new area contains a completely equipped children's playground with a wading pool and a brick comfort station, four table tennis courts, a basketball court, a softball diamond, a hard ball baseball diamond with bleachers, and a football field. The entire area, comprising two city blocks, is boarded with a fenced in planting area containing many shade trees.

## Reading Celebrates Its 40th Birthday

THIS SUMMER the Department of Public Playgrounds and Recreation of Reading, Pennsylvania, celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the play movement in Reading. Special activities were conducted in the city playgrounds, and a playground pageant was presented as the first in a series of annual productions by the Department. The theme of the pageant, called "Reading's First Forty," was the progressive steps in the development of the Department. There were few speaking characters, since most of the pageant was direct action set to music.

## All-Club Contest in Dramatized Ballad

ONE OF THE interesting events of the Department of Municipal Recreation and Adult Education of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is the ballad festival presented by the Junior Girls Clubs. The festival has been held for nine years, and this year all American ballads were used, with one of the clubs writing its own. Sixteen ballads were presented on the stage of the Roosevelt Junior High School. These included Red Wing; The Boll Weevil; Soldier, Won't You Marry Me? Two Marionettes; The Country Toad; Poor Old Maid; Three Little Kittens; The Fox in a Hungry Plight; Toad Went A-Courting; Short'nin' Bread; Where Did You Get That Hat? Little Orphant Annie; The Toad's Courtship; Ballad of the Oyster Man; and The Candy Parade.



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**Municipal Swimming Pools**—To keep citizens from swimming in near-by dangerous and contaminated rivers, the city government of Charleston, South Carolina, is planning to construct two swimming pools. One of these pools is to be for the Negroes, who have had little opportunity in Charleston to enjoy this healthful exercise. There is strong sentiment for making it possible for the less privileged children of the city to use the pools free of charge in connection with the playground system. It could be accomplished by setting aside certain hours of each day, perhaps in the forenoon, when the children from the playgrounds can be admitted free, probably in 40-minute shifts. These pools will be built by the WPA out of funds already reserved; they will be "self-liquidating." The city will issue bonds for fifty-five per cent of their cost (these bonds to be paid out of the revenue derived from the pools) and the federal government will grant the other forty-five per cent.

**Hiking in North Carolina**—The Carolina Hiking Club (Asheville, North Carolina) which is one of the leading hiking clubs of the South, is

scheduling more than fifty trips during 1940 into the mountains of the western part of the state. The hikes, open to any visitors to the city, will be conducted by experienced guides and will include half day, day, and two or three day excursions.

**County Opera and Theatricals**—The newly launched Westchester Opera Association in Westchester County, New York, is planning to present "Carmen" next spring in the County Center. Director Mary Fabian, who organized the Association, will use local talent for all but the most important roles. The opera will be sung in English. Young People's Theatricals, another recent organization in Westchester County, will produce their first revue in March, featuring dancing, singing, and dramatic sketches. The Theatricals began in October as a means of dramatic training for the Negro Choral Union, but soon young people in the five key communities were coming to weekly rehearsals for the purpose of putting on a county-wide revue. Rehearsals have included dance, music instruction, choral singing, and social dancing.

**Toledo's Churches Help**—When shortage of money caused the public schools of Toledo, Ohio, to close for six weeks immediately after the Thanksgiving recess, the churches of the city stepped into the breach. Over 34 of 130 Protestant churches reported that they held weekday vacation school programs to help take care of the leisure time created by the suspension of schools. Varied programs were offered, including drama, handicraft, music, and activities of various kinds. Volunteer workers, WPA leaders, and representatives from the city's Recreation Department provided the leadership. At the Collingwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, which was open from 9:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M., classes were held in the Church's Community House in music appreciation, handicraft, and sewing. Roller skating and all types of recreation were enjoyed in the gymnasium. Each week the WPA orchestra gave a concert with musical numbers planned especially for public school pupils.

**Reports from a Youth Study**—According to a youth study made by the Welfare Council of New York City, the following interesting figures concerning leisure-time activities of young people in New York City were revealed. Only one in five young people was finding any leisure-time outlet in music; only

## Henry Kaufmann

Henry Kaufmann, who has done so much for the youth of Pittsburgh through the years, working particularly through the Irene Kaufmann Settlement, on reaching his eightieth birthday recently, made the following statement, which is characteristic of him:

"Instead of receiving gifts, on the occasion of my birthday, I prefer to give gifts to national and local welfare agencies which serve the needy public."

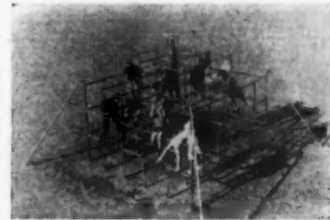
one in twenty in group music; only one in ten in art; only one in twenty in dramatics (the legitimate theatre has practically no effect on the lives of young people in New York City); only one in four goes to even one concert a season; only one in four attends art galleries; only one in eight does any traveling; only one in three spends as little as one day in an out-of-town trip each year; one in three hikes rather frequently; only four per cent show any interest in public affairs; and the number who participate in any form of winter sports is so small as to be statistically negligible.

These figures were reported at the Recreation Session of the One-Day Conference on Human Needs held under the Joint Auspices of the Welfare Council of New York City and the Greater New York Fund, March 6, 1940, by Dr. Arthur L. Swift, Jr., of Union Theological Seminary.

**Playground Birthday Celebrations**—The Department of Parks of New York City conducted special programs of recreational activities for the boys and girls of five playgrounds during the month of March in commemoration of their official opening to the public. The anniversary celebration program included tumbling contests, roller skating races, novelty races, track and field events, dancing, community singing of patriotic songs, one-act plays, and group games.

**A New Sports Journal Appears**—A new organization known as the National Semi-Professional Badminton Association has come into being to further the sport of badminton in schools, recreational agencies, and private

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clubs throughout the country. The association will publish each month *The Badminton Journal* which will bring to its subscribers suggestions, teaching and playing helps, and news from the badminton world. *The Badminton Journal* may be secured for \$1.00 a year. Further information may be secured from the National Semi-Professional Badminton Association, 1601 Main Street, Evanston, Illinois.

**Recreation Survey**—The Associated Clubs of Woodlawn (Chicago, Illinois) recently distributed a questionnaire which listed nineteen types of recreational activities, in order to determine the recreational needs of the Woodlawn District. This questionnaire was the result of the activities of the organization's planning committee which has been studying the facilities of the area. The returned forms will be sent to agencies which offer the types of recreation checked. Interested citizens will be brought together in this manner, and the recreation committee will attempt to help organize the desired activities.

## Historic Canal Becomes Play Area

**D**EVELOPMENT by the Federal government of one of the most unusual recreation projects in the East is rapidly approaching completion in the environs of Washington. This project is the restoration for about twenty-two miles from Washington up along the Potomac in Maryland of the historic Chesapeake and Ohio canal. Two years ago the government bought the old waterway and its abutting property for about a sixth of the original cost and has been engaged in transforming the lower canal reaches into a boating, fishing, and general recreation area. It is hoped that the restoration will be completed early in 1940, and then the citizens of Washington will begin to take advantage of its attractions and facilities, which will be unique in the East, if not in the entire United States. For the objective of the National Park Service, in charge of the project, has been not only to provide an attractive area where recreation can be found either by canoe or rowboat, or on foot, but to restore as nearly as possible the original appearance of the canal, once considered an engineering marvel. This has meant the restoration of the twenty-three massive red sandstone locks with their ancient manually operated gates and of five ancient stone lock houses along the route which will be converted into combination restaurants and boat landing establishments. The old canal tavern at Great Falls, where canal passengers were accustomed to break their leisurely towboat journeys from Washington up the river, will again become a dining place and overnight stop for boaters, fishermen, and sightseeing in general. All the way along the canal will be the old mule towpath to be restored as a footway for hikers and wandering picnickers.

**NOTE:** On May 30, 1940, the Great Falls-Seneca level of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was opened as a recreational waterway, and on that date the water flowed through an eight mile section for the first time since 1924. In spite of inclement weather, canoeists and rowers were on hand to enjoy the facilities provided.

## Mrs. Olive A. Stallings

The death of Mrs. Olive A. Stallings, President of the Playground Community Service Commission of New Orleans, Louisiana, occurred on June 8, 1940. Mrs. Stallings was one of the early pioneers in the playground and recreation movement in New Orleans. The Olive A. Stallings Playground in New Orleans is a monument to her zeal and to her efforts to promote clean recreation. For many years recreation was her chief interest.

Irwin F. Poche, who has been elected president to succeed Mrs. Stallings, was first employed in the Playground Department some 25 years ago. He was brought into the playground work by Mr. L. di Benedetto, manager and assistant secretary, and now serves as president of the Commission under which he formerly worked.

Mrs. Stallings at the time of her death and for many years before had been an honorary member of the National Recreation Association.

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**From Football to Folk Dancing**—Ten years ago the Cheyenne Mountain School, Colorado, dropped football from its sports calendar, substituting folk dancing for both boys and girls in its place. Today the Cheyenne Mountain dancers have achieved such distinction that they are booked for professional tours throughout the United States.

**National Citizens' Committee Appointed**—Acting upon a recommendation of the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, chairman of the Conference, has announced the appointment of five members of a National Citizens' Committee which, together with a Federal inter-agency committee will be responsible for developing a follow-up program for the Conference. The five members are Homer Folks, Secretary, State Charities Aid Association; Mrs. Saidie Orr Dunbar, President, General Federation of Women's Clubs; Dr. William G. Carr, Secretary, the Educational Policies Commission, National Education Association; Reverend Bryan J. McEntegart, Director, Division of Children, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York; and Henry F. Helmholz, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Graduate School, University of Minnesota.



## Grace Greene Baker— Pioneer Citizen

An outstanding citizen of Mount Vernon, New York, was honored recently when Mayor Hussey proclaimed June 20th as Good Citizenship Day in honor of Grace Greene Baker, for forty years active in all civic, education, and social movements. Mrs. Baker has resigned as chairman of the Recreation Commission of which she was a founder and to which she gave invaluable service. The recreation movement needs more citizens of Mrs. Baker's devotion.


**Chicago Co-Ed Club**—The Off-the-Street-Club in Chicago has demonstrated for a long time that boys and girls can and should play together. Through a system of group socials run by the Club, boys and girls were organized into like-interest groups. They follow and develop their special interests—Photography, Know-Your-City, Chemistry, Aviation, Radio—and hold frequent social meetings and dances.—From *Youth Leaders Digest*, January 1940.

**Woodcraft**—The Detroit, Michigan, Department of Recreation notes in its *Fall and Winter Bulletin*, 1939-1940, the trend in playground woodcraft toward jointed or movable articles utilizing small scraps of wood for the small parts. Since the only added expense for these projects is the purchase of a small punch drill, the bulletin states that instructors will be greatly compensated for the investment by its many uses and by the great variety of articles they may offer to their classes.


**New Recreation Department**—By exchanging credit on taxes for land, Ferndale, Michigan, has acquired titles to three parks and recreation areas. A recreation department has been set up, under the board of education, to direct and coordinate all recreational activities in the community.

**A New Orchestra for San Antonio**—San Antonio, Texas, has a new orchestra made up of one hundred school children, picked players from junior and senior high schools and upper elementary grades. Rehearsals are held every Saturday morning. The leader, a professional musician, is volunteering his services.

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**Recreation on the Air**—From January to June 1939 the Bureau of Recreation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, presented twenty-two weekly broadcasts under the title "As We Live." Fifteen-minute dramatic episodes presented by talented young people from the city recreation centers covered these topics: supervised coasting; the value of sportsmanship in athletics; opposition to social reform and its evil effects; juvenile vandalism and its cure through playground activity; therapeutic value of swimming for cripples; adult activities at a recreation center.

**"The American Teacher" Offers Special Issue**—Racial problems are discussed in the January, 1940, issue of *The American Teacher*. Among the contributions in this issue is a plea for racial tolerance by Dr. John W. Studebaker entitled "Americans All." *The American Teacher* is published by the American Federation of Teachers, 506 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Single copies, 35 cents.

**Fair Grounds to Become a Park**—At a special election held in Waconia, Minnesota, a \$13,000 bond issue for the purchase of the fair grounds was carried by a two to one majority. Title to the property will be transferred from the Fair Association to the city for park purposes.

### Lawn Bowling

*(Continued from page 316)*

range in size from  $4\frac{7}{8}$ " to  $5\frac{1}{8}$ " in diameter and weigh a maximum of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, were perfectly round or as nearly so as mechanics of those days could make them. Naturally such bowls would take a straight course across the green and, assuming the green to be level and smooth, all the bowls if well delivered would come to rest in a straight line. In order to overcome this condition the early greens were not level but higher in the middle, or on one side in the case of a narrow green, so that the player would have to judge how much his bowl would deviate from the straight path in its course across the green.

It was later that the Scotch again improved upon this style of play, and instead of crown greens they hit upon the idea of having a level, keen green with a biased bowl; that is, a bowl which is heavier on one side, making it curve to the object (jack) aimed at.

Unlike indoor bowling, a game of "buf and brawn," where the object is to knock something (tenpins) over with a heavy, hard driven ball, lawn bowling requires a gently delivered bowl to be given the required "width" and the proper "weight" to arrive at and stay near the object previously named.

A bowling green is from 120 to 140 feet square. Made square, it will last longer and permit of better bowling as the rinks can be changed around. This arrangement preserves the end or the place where the bowl is delivered from, which necessarily stands a great deal of wear, particularly from faulty delivery of a bowl.

A green is divided into eight rinks on which eight players or two teams can play. In all sixty-four players can play on a bowling green at one time on a space 120 feet square. This is a strong argument in favor of the game when one considers that a golf course requires several miles.

The bowls shall not exceed  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches in circumference nor  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pounds in weight, nor shall the bias be less than the standard bowl adopted

by the International Bowling Board. It is now necessary for all bowls to be stamped I.B.B. by the manufacturers in this country who have been given permission by the American Lawn Bowling Association to manufacture equipment.

The game can be played by rinks, four men playing against four others, each man playing two bowls alternately. When the sixteen bowls have been played, the side with the bowls nearest the white jack wins the end. They must have one or more bowls closer to the jack than the nearest of their opponents. Doubles are played with two bowlers against two others, each bowler being obliged to bowl four bowls. In singles the player has four bowls against a similar number played by his opponent.

Lawn bowlers in this country, now that they have a strong national association behind them, are quite sure that within a few years the game will become as popular as it is in Canada and other countries. Our climate in most sections is ideal for the game, and with the greens lighted at night and the fine summers we usually have there is a great future for this health-giving pastime.

### Our Rhythm Band

*(Continued from page 311)*

in the ruler. Fasten adhesive tape over one side of it. Place one spike in each hole, making sure that it has sufficient play to have a pleasing sound when struck. Fasten the apparatus on the stand which is to be painted. Strike the spikes or chimes with another spike.

#### Other Instruments

Pieces of iron or steel that sound well when struck; whistles, bells, small xylophones, washboards, gazoos. This field is almost limitless.

### Wandering Bed and Board

*(Continued from page 300)*

places, sleep there in the remote and lovely spots that can only be reached on foot. Some prefer to go camping in other ways, by canoe or pack train. But I submit that there is no other way that gives you half the freedom of doing it afoot. When you go into the woods with guides or horse wranglers you barter your freedom for a little comfort.

## Arno B. Cammerer

Arno B. Cammerer, Director of the National Park Service since 1933, recently resigned his position because of his health. He will, however, continue to serve the National Park Service in another capacity which will not impose on him the rigorous executive duties involved in the directorship.

Coming to the National Park Service in 1919, Mr. Cammerer served through fourteen of the pioneering years during which the policies and traditions of the Service were being formulated. When he took over the directorship the organization was entering upon a much wider conservation program, and he carried a tremendous responsibility for coordinating the growing program and directing it into channels of permanent greatness. "It is my belief," says Horace A. Allright in a tribute to Mr. Cammerer in *Planning and Civic Comment*, "that the enduring value of the national park program while Mr. Cammerer was director will mark that period as one of the greatest in national park history."

Newton P. Drury, Executive Secretary of the California Department of Conservation, will become the fourth director of the Service.

## Guiding the Camp Counselor

(Continued from page 304)

ideas and plans they have a part in forming, and gain great satisfactions from life.

Who evaluates the work of counselors and counselor groups which stimulates them to greater efforts and achievements? Director or leader evaluation is about the only type that is done, and often this is totally negative. This leads to a shifting of counselors from camp to camp each summer, and results in little of educational value for counselors or campers. A guiding philosophy is needed which stimulates self-evaluation, brings forth greater effort, and promotes freedom, growth and happiness for the counselor. This in turn will react on the campers and stimulate the development of all. Progress can best be made by freeing the human spirit, giving it avenues of expression through challenging things to do and encouraging self-evaluation.

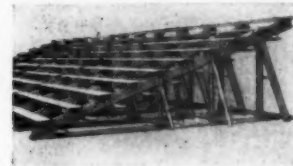
Little follow-up has been attempted for counselors. Occasionally a few days of winter camping or a banquet during the late fall or early winter result in contacts with counselors, but few camps carry out such programs. The permanent

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and lasting values to be obtained from camp have not sufficiently been taken into account.

## A Few Guiding Principles

It is necessary to broaden the camp program and enrich the experience for all.

There should be delegation of responsibilities for counselors according to abilities and needs, and freedom in which to grow.

Freedom for counselors and campers to grow in knowledge and skill according to the ability of the individual.

Camp should promote skill in self-direction, evaluation and adjustment, and should establish the right ideals and attitudes for camp, home, school and community.

## Suggested Recommendations

A year-round position for the director.

Camp should be open the entire year, and made available for counselor and camper groups at all times.

A long view of camping is needed with better organization, improved plans and lasting values emphasized.



## Television as a New Aid to Recreation

(Continued from page 306)

tournament or other event may be in progress. The portable equipment can send its telecast through a so-called "hay-rake" antenna by short wave to the "V" shaped antenna at the main studio, where it can be picked up and sent out over the regular television channel of that station.

Television, long predicted as "just around the corner," now is apparently turning that corner and coming into clear view. It will soon be fully on the scene as an integral part of our daily lives. What is happening in Los Angeles is being repeated on a scale larger or smaller in other principal cities of the United States. In time, television will also be brought to the smaller communities of the nation. Because of their great potential value in the field of leisure activity, it is well to keep abreast of these developments and to look forward to the time when television will be widely used as an aid to public education and recreation.

## Boating

(Continued from page 322)

see it start to flap or quiver near the mast.

- (5) Don't let the wind get around behind you, but keep facing it; yet don't face directly into it if you want to make headway, but slant into it—except for the moment of turning around.

## Regime

Have different colored sails for the novices, partially experienced men, and the thoroughly experienced men, so that you can keep track of them and keep them within their respective bounds. Keep a file with the name of each boat in it. Put the individual card of each boy or girl or man, with his story written on it, in the file under the name of the boat when he takes it. Use practice of "first come, first served" to keep all boats busy. Have your participants report to the officer that everything is shipshape before he finally pushes off. A swimming test of a few yards—not to see if the boy can swim, but to see if he will hang on to his boat without being panicked in case his boat overturns—is essential. Life jackets are desirable. Heavy clothing, coats, and shoes are detrimental.

## Cost

Materials for your boat including sail and paint should be less than twenty dollars. Market price

of your complete boat should be less than fifty dollars. You need about one supervisor for every twenty boats. About twenty active club members will use each boat in the course of a week. Bigger boats are desirable for the experienced boys. But those should preferably be schooners employing three of the same small sails each tended by a boy to keep the crew busy and separate and encourage team play—with one boy as captain. These larger boats will not cost much more and will be a great help in patrolling the program.

## Kayak Sailing—a Sport with Thrills!

(Continued from page 318)

In general there are two fundamental types of kayaks—the Eskimo and the Scandinavian designs. There are a number of types of canvas boats used throughout the country which are termed kayaks but which are not genuine ones.

The Scandinavian boat is long, slim, and fine lined throughout—typically a racing boat. The Eskimo designs are comparatively heavy, high and stout, and are built principally for seagoing and rough water. The latter have proved more popular on the West Coast. These boats offer excellent material for the manual training or recreation program. The total cost may be from around \$7.00 to \$18.00, depending on the size of the boat, and the design, and material used. The recreational values involved include working on designs and modifying plans, the mechanical work of actual construction, the physical training and skill involved in the use of the boat with incidental swimming and water safety experience, and the social aspect of groups or clubs with their various meetings, expeditions, and events. The boats may be made with single or double cockpits, are easily transported, and are suitable for use in rivers, lakes, bays and, to a limited extent, in the surf.

The events include races of several types, picnics and camping trips, and stunts such as the "Eskimo Roll," which involves rolling the boat over and over sideways by the use of a double-bladed paddle and rather skillful lurches on the part of the paddler.

The method of construction will vary somewhat according to the program of which it is a part and the policies of that program. Where boats are to be built in quantities, however, it is desirable first to build a frame or forms on which a number of boats may be framed. The frames or ribs are then secured to the form, stem and stern pieces are

fastened in place, and the longerons or longitudinal frames are set in. The boat is then removed from the form. Deck carlins and cockpit frames are put in. The deck longerons go in next, the boat is covered with canvas, and the combings and moldings are secured in place. After this the boat is ready to be sealed with some sort of canvas sealer and painted.

## O. W. R. C.

(Continued from page 319)

after an interim of twenty years, there was again a demonstration of this same helpful spirit. Several boats, beautifully decorated by a committee from the O. W. R. C., were an outstanding feature in a pageant at the Golden Gate International Exposition.

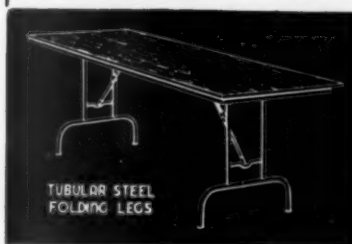
This unfailing willingness to do their bit can in some measure be traced to the fact that the O. W. R. C. was organized in the first years of the first World War. Not a week passed without this group being called into service. There were innumerable Red Cross benefits, boxes packed to be sent to the front, knitting and sewing projects, entertainment for soldiers in nearby camps, whooping up the "Buy a Bond" Campaign by buying one of the first offered in their city.

Thus working together for both city and nation in the early days of their organization, a comradeship developed that has grown throughout the years. To see that this comradeship is no superficial thing one has only to attend one of the meetings when weighty matters are discussed. Pros and cons may fill the air, talking out of order may be controlled with great difficulty, but ultimately all is settled as it should be and they adjourn, happily and good-naturedly, for one more row on the Lake. Here the Lake contributes its part to this comradeship through the beauty of its blue-green waters, the rhythm of the oars, the quiet and orderly "All Pull Together" spirit so necessary to successful rowing.

The twenty-fourth in their unbroken series of special annual luncheons was held this year at Lake Merritt Hotel with one hundred and three members and special guests present. Here overlooking the Lake upon whose waters at least one of their crews has rowed every Wednesday morning, rain or shine, since 1916, "a good time was had by one and all."

Summed up from many standpoints, this pioneer O. W. R. C. should hold a high rating

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among groups organized by Departments of Playground and Recreation throughout our nation.

## San Antonio's Puppet Theater

(Continued from page 320)

One day the music and dramatics director was enthusiastically discussing the prospected puppet theater with some of her friends—friends who were in no way connected with recreation work. The subject of window decoration came up. How could the windows be treated in a fashion that would not conflict with the idea of puppetry, and yet would be suitable for a building which, in outline, was still obviously a church? One of the "lay" friends conceived the idea of simulating stained glass with cellophane, and was immediately induced by the enthusiastic director to tackle the problem herself. First she experimented on her own bedroom windows, then taught her newly-acquired technique to some of the playground leaders. Using the well-beloved story of Don Quixote as her theme, she designed cellophane cutouts which would tell his life story in pictures. Under her direction the playground leaders did most of the actual cutting and pasting. The bright-colored cellophane, in true stained-glass tones of rich red, green, gold, blue and purple, lets in plenty of light and blends beautifully with the blue and wine burlap curtains of the little stage. Net result—interesting and original windows, plus a lay person whose enthusiasm for recreational activity jumped from zero to 100. She gave her time and energy "just for the fun of it," and when she was through she was a new "rooter" for recreation.

Other laymen, too, have become enthusiastic workers in the puppet theater. Mary Aubrey Keating, noted artist, painted a backdrop for the stage, and came away singing the praises of recreation. Octavio Medellion, a well-known local sculptor, taught some of the workers how to carve beautiful wooden puppet heads, and in turn caught the fever of enthusiasm. Rosalie Berkowitz, who was recently awarded first prize in a state-wide art contest, painted some of the puppets' faces. All these lay people worked free of charge, taught the regular workers invaluable lessons, and helped to spread the news about recreation in San Antonio. Needless to say, a community never benefits from recreation until it knows what recreation is.

Ingenuity and originality are keywords of the theater program. The Spanish lanterns that give light from the ceiling look like genuine antiques, but are made of sheet metal and gelatin paper. The audience sits on bright blue benches made in the recreation department's newly established craft shop.

Performances are free to the public. They are held every day (except Sundays and Mondays) at five and eight P. M. Some of the plays were written by a local author and deal with Texas history. All performances are well attended and well received. Tourists, visiting celebrities, school teachers with their classes, and the neighborhood's hundreds of Mexican children make up the audiences. To date, at the end of six weeks, 1,482 adults and 1,543 children have attended. All alike respond to the informality and the "Land of Make Believe" atmosphere of the little theater.

The playground leaders themselves are as thrilled as the audience; they are amazed at their own progress, and they have gained an insight into the true meaning of recreation. They feel that they are helping to meet a crying need in their own community.

When these young men and women first came into the Department, no one would have called them a particularly talented group. Not one of them had manipulated puppets before, and only one had made them, but now, after only six weeks, they are putting on finished performances. Already the eight members of this group are infinitely better equipped as playground leaders than they were before. All have learned invaluable lessons in working with other people, and they have almost unconsciously formulated a code of ethics for playground leadership.

## "Public Opinion"

(Continued from page 312)

in gifts to charity. We are convinced, therefore, that citizens are interested in "sharing" in a playground program. This raises the point as to whether taxpayers supporting a public Recreation Department would also wish to share in its program if given a chance.

## Thursday Night at Hiram House Playground

(Continued from page 294)

with a tolerant humor that comes of good fellowship. The music begins. On a little wooden seating arrangement like small bleachers many children and grown-ups are sitting waiting for the show to start. On a bench that runs the whole length of the playground's side many women with their babies are sitting.

Now that darkness has fallen. The crowd moves about, listening to the music, drinking milk. The milk stands are not run for profit and the three cent price is within reach of most. Here we see a tiny girl who reaches up to the milk stand with her three cents, buys a bottle of milk which she unselfishly gives to her still tinier brother while she munches on the graham cracker that went with the purchases. Scenes like this are common all over the playground.

A hush falls on the crowd. Eight thousand eyes turn upward as the first pictures flash on the screen above their heads. The sound apparatus begins to work. Whatever the feature is, a Mickey Mouse, or a comic short of some other kind, it is always received with great enthusiasm. This is not the ordinary movie crowd of the cities clamoring for the very latest of Hollywood productions, but a group that is hungry for entertainment of any kind. Movies here are judged on their intrinsic merits, on their ability to produce a laugh that rises from the crowd, or a multifold exclamation of surprise and wonder. Pictures dealing with animal characters always have a tremendous vogue with these outdoor audiences. Little boys shout, babies gurgle, mothers laugh. The show is on. For almost an hour the movies continue. The crowd watches—moving about sometimes but always interested.

At last the words "GOOD NIGHT" flash on the screen. There is a sigh of disappointment, but all good things must reach an end. The crowd begins to disperse. Parents come to fetch their children. Adults begin to make their way homeward.



## With the State Parks

THE TWENTIETH National Conference on State Parks held May 12-16, 1940, more nearly resembled a migration this year, starting as it did at Starved Rock State Park in Illinois, proceeding to New Salem State Park and then across into Indiana for visits at Turkey Run State Park, McCormick's Creek State Park, and Spring Mill State Park. Col. Richard Lieber of Indianapolis, was re-elected Chairman of the Board and Harold S. Wagner of Akron, Ohio, was reelected President of the Conference. Miss Harlean James continues as Executive Secretary. Conrad Wirth, Supervisor of the Branch of Recreation, Land Planning and State Cooperation of the National Park Service was elected a life member of the Board of Directors. Next year the Conference will meet in Pine Mountain State Park, Georgia.

In his address of welcome, Charles P. Casey, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings, emphasized the importance of recreation in the modern scene. The State of Illinois now has two acres of state parks for every 1000 inhabitants. A later speaker stated that Illinois planned eventually to have ten acres of state parks for every 1000 inhabitants.

Citing the growth in State Parks since the founding of the National Conference on State Parks, Col. Lieber pointed out that in 1923, 25 states had 120 state parks whereas in 1940, 47 states have 821 areas. In an address on "Camping," L. B. Sharp, Executive Director of Life Camps, urged that youth should not only be taken to the woods, but *through* them. He contrasted the traditional centralized camp with decentralized camping which involves small groups of youth on their own, cooking their own food, building their own shelter, and planning their own program.

Garrett Eppley, Associate Regional Planner, Region II, National Park Service, pointed out the importance of leadership in state parks. Commenting on this presentation, President Wagner said that recognition of leadership will mean much to the life or death of many state parks.

The next Conference on State Parks will be held in Georgia, and will convene in Pine Mountain State Park early in April 1941.

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After a while the playground is deserted.

Such is a Thursday night at Hiram House during the summer.

## Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of  
Current Interest to the Recreation Worker

### MAGAZINES

#### *Beach and Pool*, June 1940

"Helpful Pointers" by Carroll Bryant. Points to be used in convincing the public of the necessity of knowing how to swim

"How to Stage a Water Safety Campaign" by Clyde Baird

#### *The Camping Magazine*, June 1940

"From the Ground Up" by Alice Humphrey Doermann. "An adventure in ceramics under the pines"

"Music in Camp" by Mary L. Northway

"The Use of Dolls as an Approach to Indian Lore" by Ethel Theonen

#### *The Journal of Health and Physical Education*, June 1940

"Let's Go Fishing" by Gilmer G. Robinson. An article on "Skish," a game based on bait casting techniques

#### *Scholastic Coach*, June 1940

"Light Up the Night"

"Layouts of Court Games for Physical Education and Recreation Areas" compiled by Caswell M. Miles, Thomas Lyon White, Leonard G. White

### PAMPHLETS

#### *Bibliography on Family Life, Parenthood, and Young People's Relationships*

Federal Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York, price 10¢

#### *Collateral Studies for Work Experience on N.Y.A. Projects: Machine Woodworking, The Jigsaw*

National Youth Administration for Illinois, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, Ill.

#### *The Community and Its Young People* by M. M. Chambers

American Youth Commission, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C., price 15¢

#### *Community Responsibility for Youth*. Recommendations of the American Youth Commission

American Council on Education, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

#### *4-H Club Insect Manual*

Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., price 10¢

#### *Negro Youth, Their Social and Economic Backgrounds: A Selected Bibliography of Unpublished Studies 1900-1938*

American Youth Commission, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C., price 30¢

#### *Organization of 4-H Club Work—A Guide for Local Leaders*

Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., price 10¢

#### *Selected References to Recreation - Program Material* by Ella Gardner

Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

### Magazines and Pamphlets

Houston, Texas, Recreation Department  
 Lincoln Urban League, Lincoln, Nebraska  
 Community Service, Whiting, Indiana  
 Department of Public Welfare, Louisville, Ky. (contains report of Division of Recreation)  
 Delaware County, Pa., Park and Recreation Board  
 Berwyn, Ill., Playground and Recreation Commission  
 Department of Recreation, Kalamazoo, Michigan  
 Bureau of Recreation, Department of Public Works, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
 Allentown, Pa., Recreation Commission  
 York, Pa., Recreation Commission  
 Park Commission, Essex County, New Jersey  
 Board of Recreation, Paterson, New Jersey  
 Lafayette, Louisiana, Recreation Commission

### Magic in the Recreation Program

*(Continued from page 296)*

will see in magic a form of enjoyment through participation, and they will use it as a means of developing friendships through common interest, self-education, alertness, resourcefulness, poise, balance, and grace. They will find it invaluable in working with shy and problem children for through it psychomotor skills and coordinations may be achieved. Care must be taken, however, to see that guidance in magic is adapted to the individual child so that it is an expression of his own needs and abilities, and does not become the prime factor in itself.

### A Spring Clean-up Campaign

*(Continued from page 323)*

ing at which the Fire Chief, Public Works Commissioner, local contractor in charge of rubbish collections, and the Association committee members spoke on the subject of health, fire prevention, and sanitation. The Scouts distributed flyers telling of proper garbage disposal to all of the 773 families. A committee made a careful survey of all yards and alleys, marking down the dirty ones on maps drawn up by the scoutmaster. Photographs of these spots were taken.

On April first, neighborhood children, with the thirty-two Boy Scouts and their leaders, went to each dirty alley and yard and with hoes, rakes, and shovels cleaned up every bit of trash and garbage. A city truck followed along, and the larger boys put the trash in baskets and threw it into the truck. Many people brought out waste material from their attics and cellars, making it a Fire Prevention Drive. Cooperation was even greater than it had been in the playground project. The work was carried on for six weeks. Parades and

meetings were held. Many photographs showing the newly cleaned yards and alleys were taken. All local newspapers contributed much in the way of editorials and articles on sanitation. A thorough checkup at the end of the six weeks showed that all dirty spots had been cleaned.

The educational value of this campaign was great. Mothers and fathers became conscious of the conditions of their surroundings. Seeing their own children cleaning up the trash emphasized the importance of proper methods of disposal. Many families obtained new containers. For those many children who participated in the campaign it was a case of learning and acquiring attitudes by doing. It was citizenship training of the first degree. The thirty-two Boy Scouts of Troop 76 derived immeasurable satisfaction from their work especially because of the 11th Scout Law which says that "a scout is clean—clean in his mind, in body, in his home, and in his neighborhood." The campaign gave all an opportunity to be of practical service to the community. And it was something which could not have been without the development of the vacant lot playground.

NOTE: A recent communication from the East Boston Social Centers Council announces that a third playground will soon be completed through the efforts of the East Boston neighborhood folks. The history of its development is interesting.

Over the East Boston tunnel there is a piece of land owned by the City Transit Department which can never be taken for building purposes. A committee of two from the Neighborhood Playground Association was appointed to call upon the transit commissioner and the secretary to the Mayor to present needs of the children and ask for the use of the property as a playground. The committee obtained permission to use the land indefinitely without charge. Then the neighborhood people began operations. Men and boys started in digging post holes, breaking up chunks of clay, sifting soil, and mixing cement in their spare time. The East Boston Social Centers Council donated \$250, and this sum, together with amounts which the association will raise at Saturday night dances, will defray the cost of a fence and make possible the purchase of a junglegym. There will also be a horseshoe court, a ten foot chute, and sand boxes. The land, which is L-shaped, contains about 750 square feet. It will take care of approximately one hundred children.

# New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

## American Vacations

By Larry Nixon. Little, Brown and Company, Boston. \$2.25.

**A**ERICAN VACATIONS is written expressly for Americans of moderate means who cannot afford expensive trips. The book will tell you how to get the most fun, rest, and relaxation out of vacations in the United States, and it covers vacation resources of every state. There are chapters on farmhouse vacations, dude ranches without "trimmings," Youth Hostels, and national parks. The volume is specific in its information on how to plan, what to wear, what to take, where to get it, and what it costs.

## Reading with Children

By Anne Thaxter Eaton. The Viking Press, New York. \$2.50.

**G**ROWNUPS WILL RENEW their youth in this delightful book which will bring to life many memories and hours spent with favorite books of their youth. Much has happened in the children's book world in a generation. Old favorites have won new friends and blossomed forth in attractive new editions, or they have fallen from favor. New books have won recognition, and accordingly old and new books march through the pages of this volume. Particularly interesting to the general reader will be the answers Miss Eaton is able to give to frequent questions: "What was the book I used to love so well?" "Do children like it today as much as I did then?"

## Outdoor Cooking

By Cora, Rose and Bob Brown. The Greystone Press, New York. \$2.50.

**T**HE BROWNS have cooked under every conceivable condition in all parts of the world, and they have at their finger tips ways of meeting any of the difficulties that may arise in outdoor cooking. They share with their readers not only delicious recipes but information on cooking supplies which nature furnishes free of charge and methods of building all types of cook fires.

You won't go wrong if you do your cooking "the Brown way"!

## The Vacation Guide

By Robert Spiers Benjamin. Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. \$2.50.

**T**HE VACATION GUIDE not only describes America's many and varied vacation possibilities, but also classifies them by types and by season, and tells which are best for families, for single men and women, for younger and older people. There are sections on music and dance festivals, colorful folk carnivals, and summer theaters. The book also gives the American calendar, scheduling unique and outstanding events and spectacles for each month such as the tournament of roses at Pasadena, and Dutch Tulip Time in Holland, Michigan. The final section gives a list of organizations where free travel literature may be secured.

## The Days We Celebrate

Volumes I, II, III, and IV. Compiled and edited by Robert Haven Schauffler. Dodd, Mead and Company, New York. Each \$2.50.

**M**R. SCHAUFFLER, whose *Our American Holidays* and *Plays for Our American Holidays* are so widely known, has given us a new series in *The Days We Celebrate*. Volumes I, II, III, and IV of this series are now available. The first is devoted to Christmas, St. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter. Volume II covers New Year's Day, All Fool's Day, May Day, Arbor Day, Harvest Festival, and Thanksgiving; Volume III, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, and Armistice Day. In Volume IV will be found suggested celebrations for Mother's Day, Music Week, Graduation Day, Father's Day, Hallowe'en, and Book Week. Each volume offers easily staged and acted plays, pageants, masques and tableaux, and there is material adapted for the use of children of all ages.

## Busy Fingers

By Hildegard Fochs. Adapted by Adair Forrester. David McKay Company, South Washington Square, Philadelphia. \$2.50.

**T**HIS BOOK OF HANDCRAFT is intended for beginners and is designed to help the uninitiated become familiar with processes and materials used. The projects described include useful articles for the home, personal wear, decorations for parties, and games of various types which can be made even by small children. The book deals with the simplest forms of basketry, cardboard modeling, book-binding, raffia and leather craft, as well as with table decorations for festive occasions, and toys and games.

## Swimming Fundamentals

By Matt Mann II and Charles C. Fries. Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York. \$2.00.

**S**WIMMING IS A SPORT about which many books have been written, but there is still room for a book of this type, which represents one man's pattern tried and proved through successful teaching of thousands of beginners. The book is simple and direct, and the authors waste no time in going to their job, that of teaching fundamentals. The illustrations are from actual situations and show clearly the essential body movements in the swimming strokes that are explained.

## Physical Education in the Secondary School

Prepared by Laurentine B. Collins and Rosalind Cassidy, in collaboration with others. Committee on Workshops. Progressive Education Association, New York. \$1.00.

**I**N THE SPRING OF 1938 the Progressive Education Association asked a group of sixty or more physical education teachers and administrators to participate in the



formation of a physical education committee in one of the association's Workshops. The Workshop was held at Mills College in the summer of 1938 with a small group of physical educators participating. Each individual worked on his own problems as well as giving thought to the general philosophy in the field, and the members met regularly as a seminar group. By the end of October, 1938, five hundred copies of the report which came out of the Workshop sessions were made available in mimeographed form. Consultation conferences were held in a number of cities, the report was evaluated, and specific suggestions for revision were given. At the 1939 Northwest Workshop at Reed College the first report was revised. The result is a thoughtful and thought-provoking report which should be exceedingly valuable in rebuilding physical education programs and providing material for conferences and study groups. The relationship of physical education to recreation is discussed, and the importance of training for the use of leisure emphasized. Coordination of the recreation activities of the school and community is urged, and it is recommended that in each school the person best suited for the responsibility be selected to serve as coordinator of the recreational activities of the school.

Recreation workers as well as physical educators will find much of interest in this report and in the carefully selected bibliographies presented.

#### Adventures in Camping.

Edited by the Camp Committee of the National Federation of Settlements, Inc., 147 Avenue B, New York. \$.50.

This booklet is a collection of twelve well written articles on camping today. A list of the titles indicates the pertinent nature of the material discussed. "New Trends in Camping," "Caddy Camps," "Co-educational Camping," "Family Cottages," "Staff Recruiting and Training," "Notes on Training," "Pioneer Camping," "Nature Programs," "Camp Crafts," "Dramatics in Camp," "Camp Music," "Hosteling and Gallivanting." While *Adventures in Camping* will have special significance for settlement camp workers, it should be read by all who are interested in camping. All of the articles are written in a practical, understandable manner and in addition several of them have good bibliographies.

#### The Summer Camp Guide.

Porter Sargent, 11 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. \$.25.

This guide, now in its fifth annual edition, is designed to help prospective campers, their parents, teachers and advisers in making a more discriminating choice of summer camps. Four hundred camps are listed in this book and information is given about a number of them.

From Porter Sargent may also be secured a practical booklet entitled *Where to Buy Everything for Summer Camps*, which contains a selected list of firms specializing in supplying and serving summer camps (free). There is also available *A Brief School Guide*, listing boarding schools, day and country day schools, junior colleges, and schools for specialized training. Price 25 cents.

#### Safety Education Methods—Elementary School.

Education Division, National Safety Council, Inc., 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago. \$.50.

This booklet has been prepared primarily for the use of elementary teachers who want to teach safety but are at a loss to know how to go about it. Suggestions are offered for teaching in primary, intermediate, and upper grades, and many projects are offered. Information is presented on such activities as junior safety councils, their organization and programs; the school safety patrol; and bicycle clubs and miscellaneous clubs. A standard student accident reporting system is outlined.

#### Historic Quilts.

By Florence Peto. The American Historical Company, Inc., New York. \$.35.

Not a technical study, this volume, but quilts come to life through old letters, diaries, and traditions. Out of it all the author, widely known as lecturer and writer on the subject, has woven the romance of the quilt. She is concerned only slightly with the "how" of the needlework, but compellingly interested in the who, where, when, why, and other circumstances woven stitch by stitch into the family heirlooms whose history she has traced. The resulting story is a contribution to American folk lore as well as folk art.

#### Official Rules of Softball 1940.

Spalding's Athletic Library, No. 412. \$.35.

C. E. Brewer, Commissioner of Recreation in Detroit, is chairman of the committee in charge of the revision of softball rules, and Arthur T. Noren, secretary-treasurer of the committee and Director of Recreation in Elizabeth, N. J., is editor of the Guide. A number of changes have been incorporated in the rules. The Guide contains a number of articles on techniques, and on explanations and interpretations of the rules, a suggested form of constitution and by-laws for an amateur softball league, information on conducting tournaments, and data on developments throughout the country.

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